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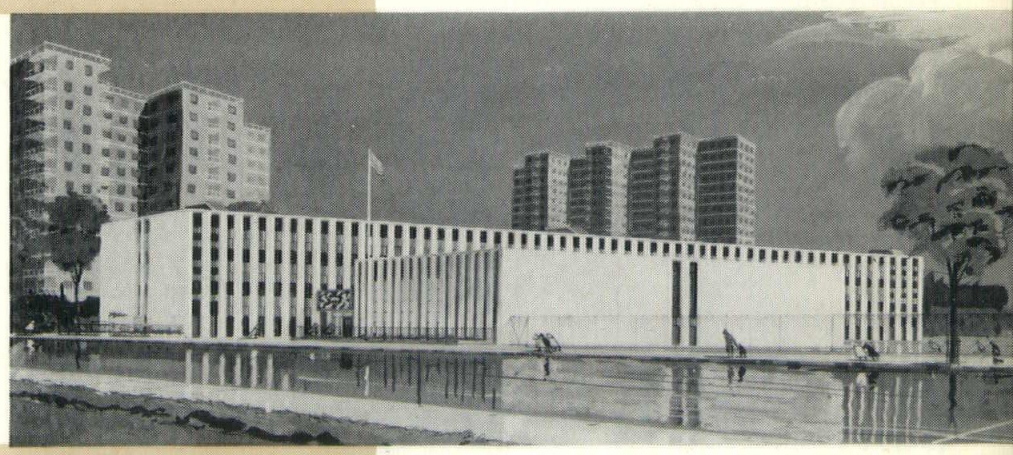

IAL PUBLICATION—NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, INC.
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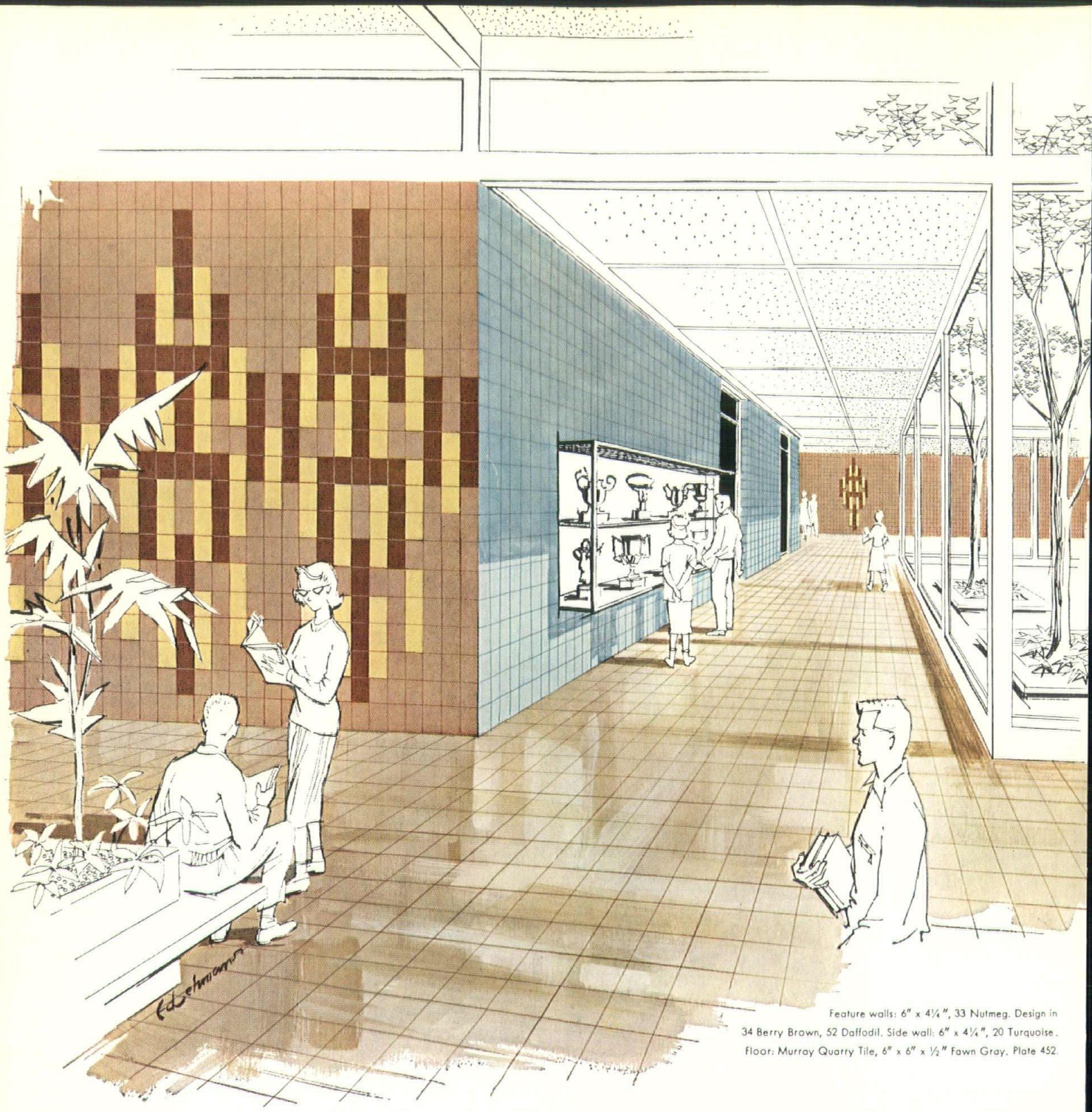
MAY - JUNE
1963
VOLUME XXIII — NUMBER 3



Feature walls: 6" x 4¼", 33 Nutmeg. Design in 34 Berry Brown, 52 Daffodil. Side wall: 6" x 4¼", 20 Turquoise. Floor: Murray Quarry Tile, 6" x 6" x ½" Fawn Gray. Plate 452.

Large size tiles brighten interior design

This modern school corridor suggests how American Olean's larger size ceramic tiles can bring design interest to building interiors. These larger 8½" x 4¼" and 6" x 4¼" wall tiles are ideal for adding bold touches of color and pattern. Set vertically or horizontally, they create a pleasing sense of scale in long corridors and other large areas. They are especially practical from a cost standpoint, too. When used with American Olean's Master-Set® sheet mounting, they can reduce initial installation costs by as much as 25%. Write for Booklet 911, "Design Ideas with Large Size Tile."

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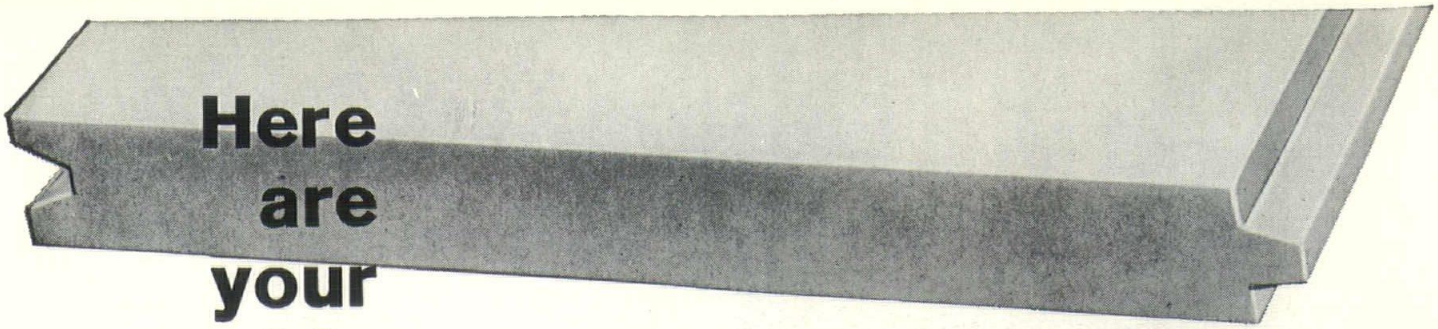

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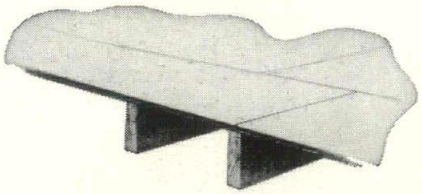

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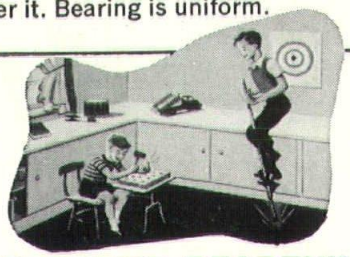

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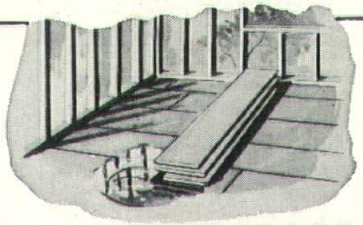

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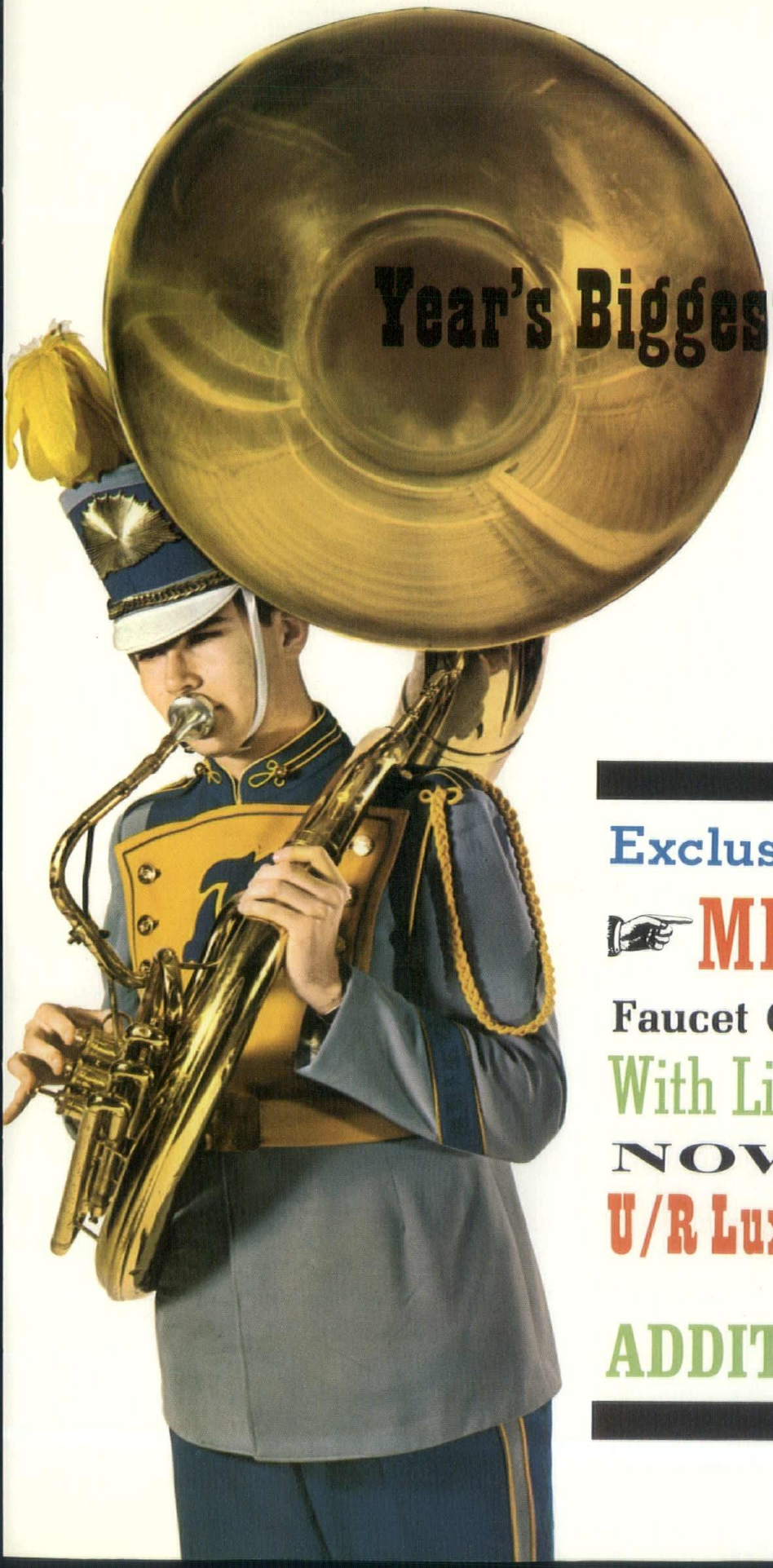

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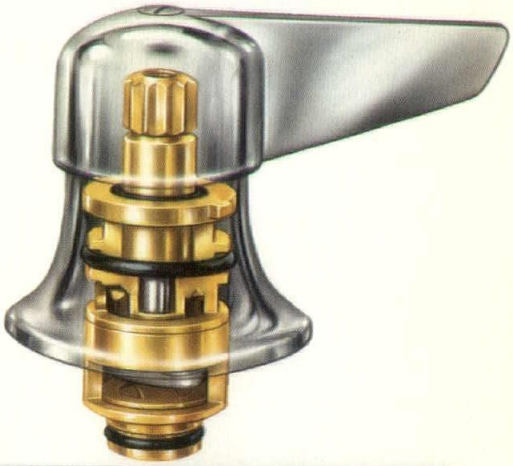

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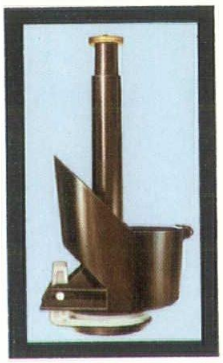

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MAY - JUNE, 1963 **VOL. XXIII — 3**

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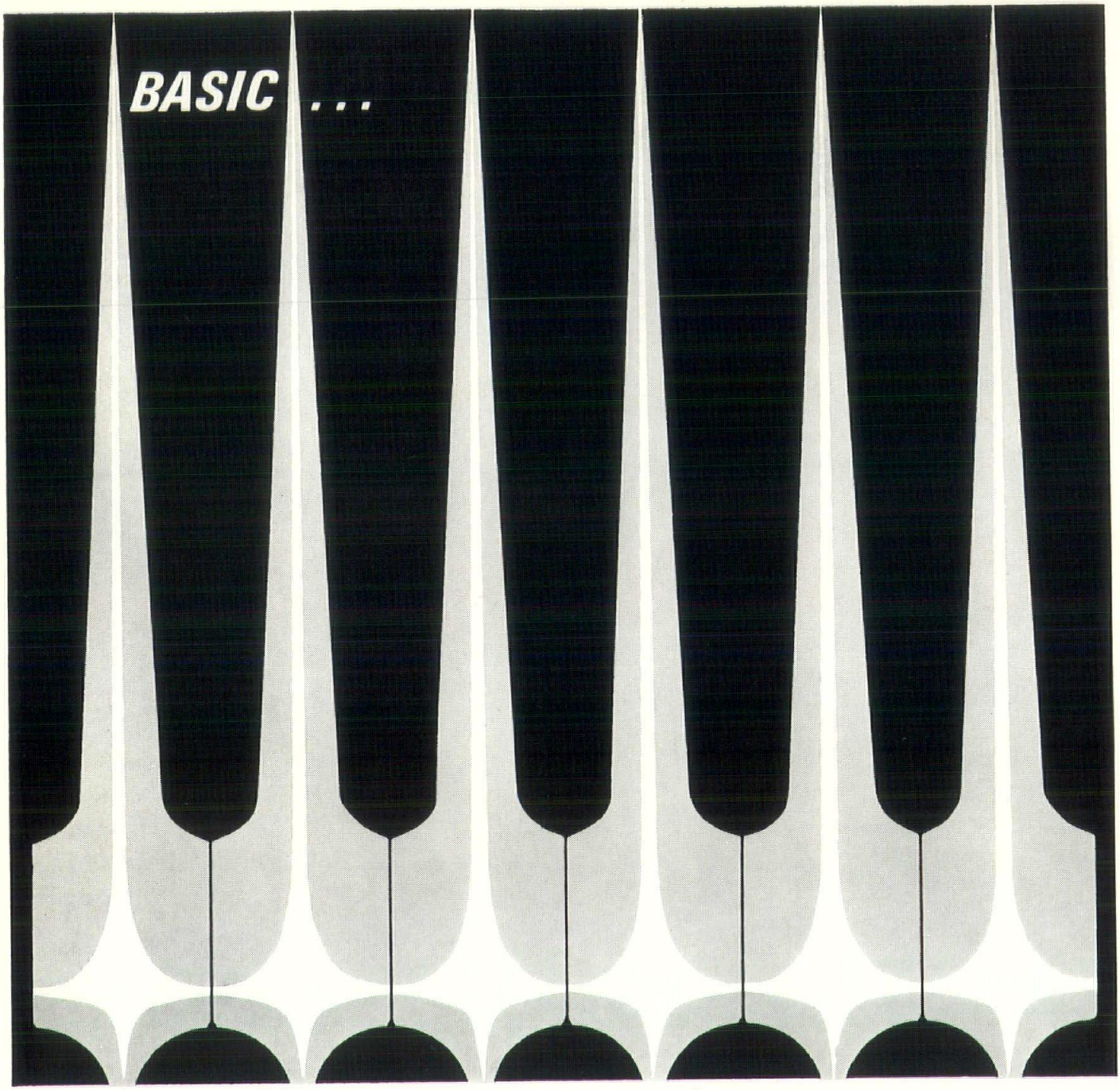

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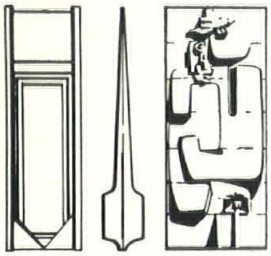

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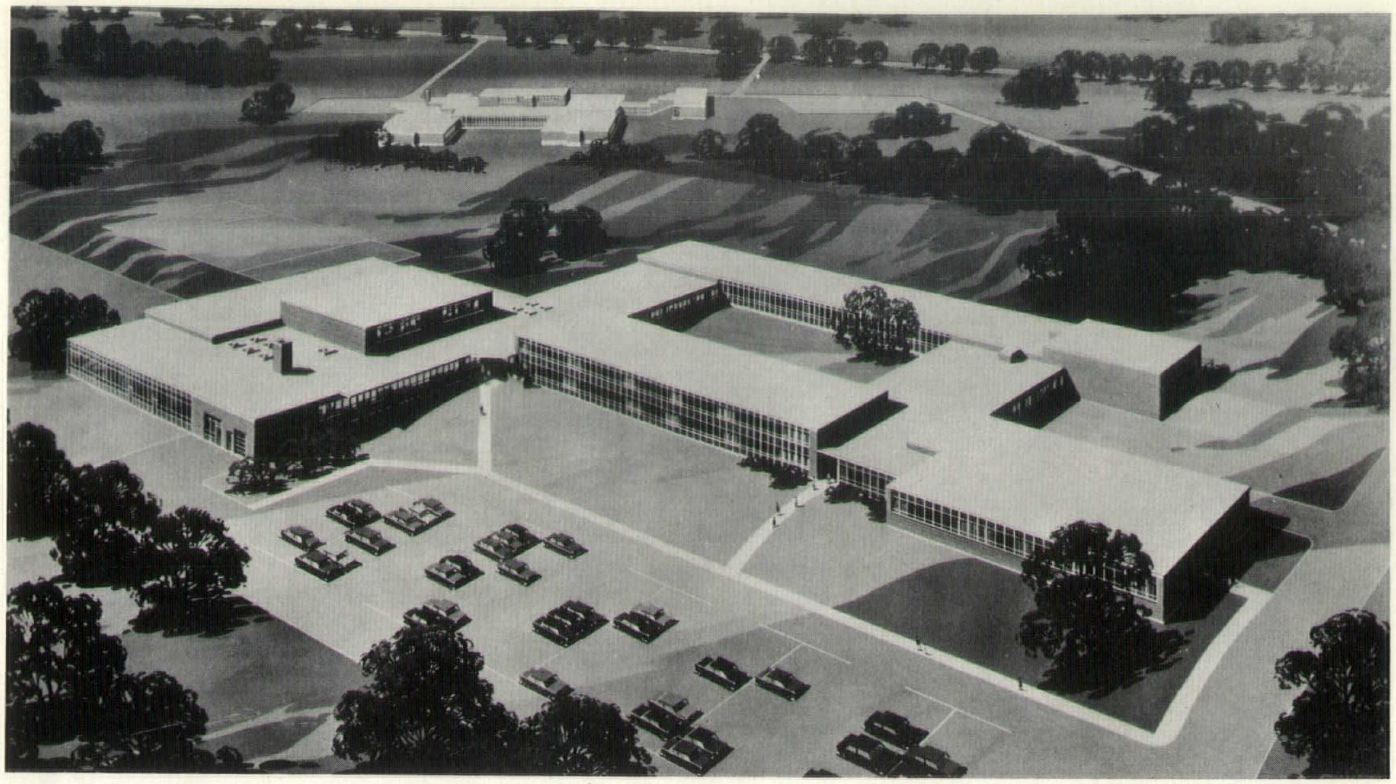

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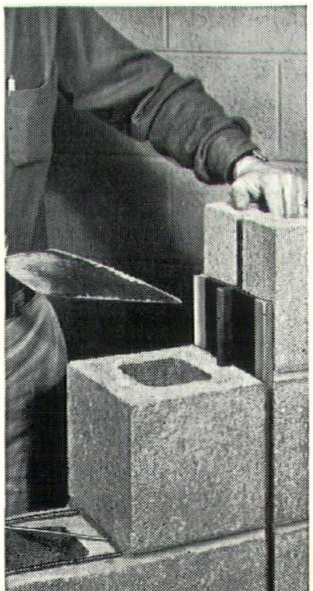

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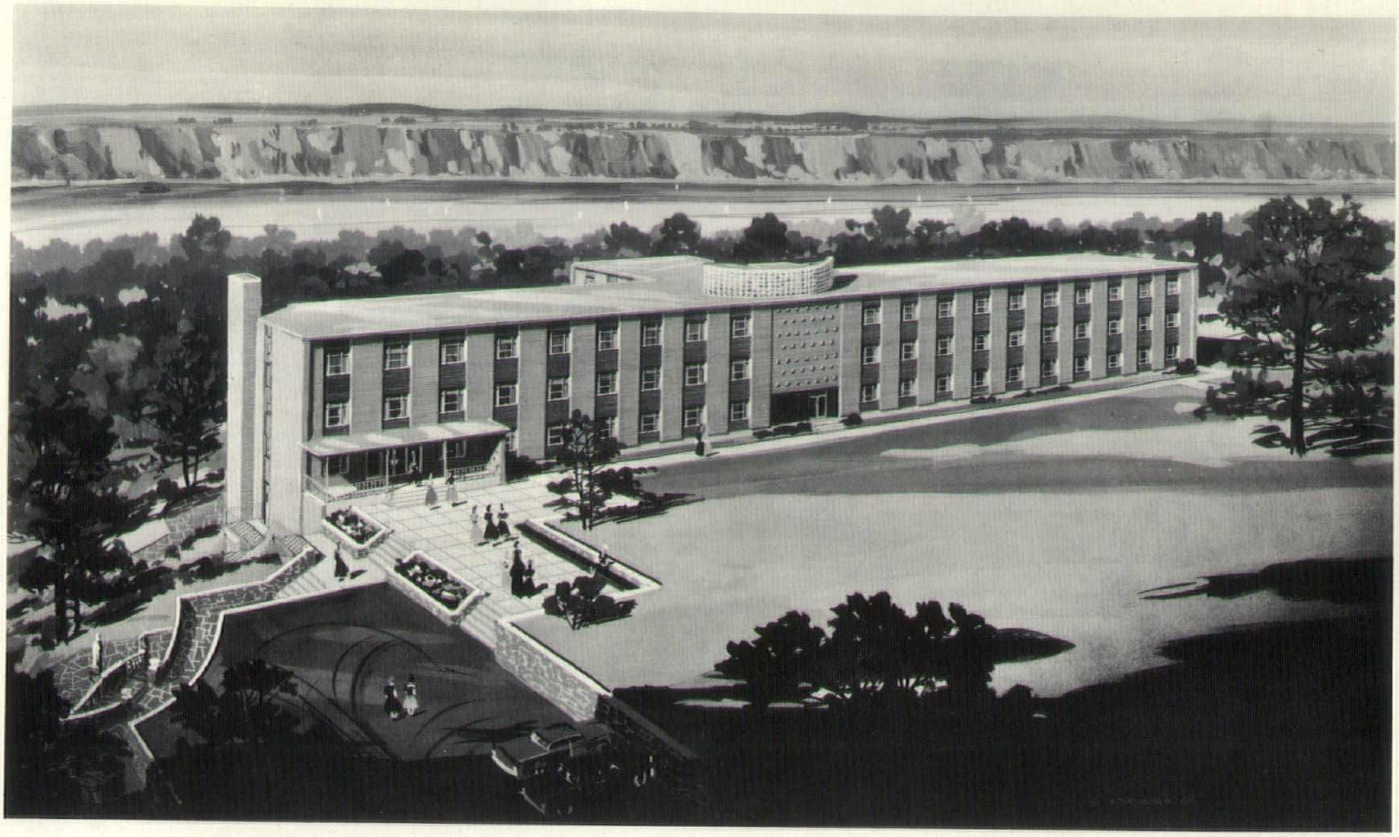
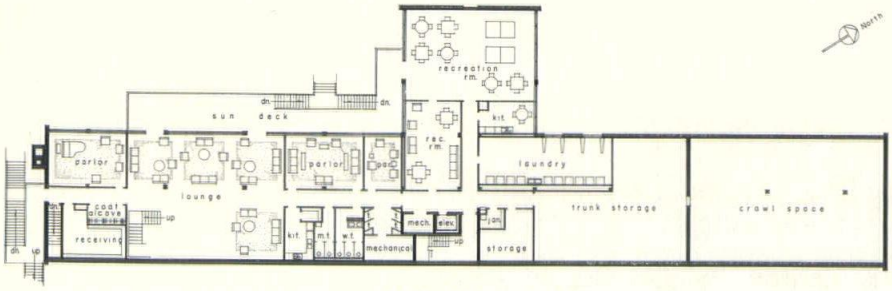


ELIZABETH SETON COLLEGE DORMITORY

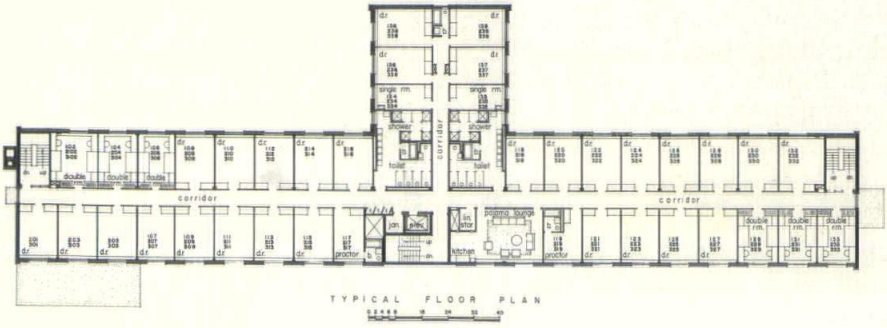
location • Yonkers, New York

owner • Sisters of Charity, Yonkers, New York

architect • Edward Fleagle AIA



MAIN FLOOR PLAN



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

This 212-bed Dormitory for the Elizabeth Seton Junior College for Girls is now being completed in Yonkers.

In accordance with the Master Plan for the College, this building is located on a large Mall opposite an existing residence hall. As viewed from the east, there are three floors of double rooms—each with Pajama Lounge, Kitchenette, and duplex toilet and shower facilities. A few single rooms with private baths are provided for the Proctors.

Taking advantage of the steeply sloping site, the Main Floor with its Lounge, Parlor and Recreation Rooms is located one story below the first floor of dormitory rooms. Large sun decks overlook the Hudson River to the west.

The building is of fireproof construction, steel frame, bar joists, concrete floor slabs, poured gypsum roof, cavity walls, gypsum block partitions, acoustic tile ceilings, vinyl asbestos tile and terrazzo floors, aluminum casement windows, built-in furniture.

The gross area of the building is 49,500 sq. ft., or 233.5 sq. ft. per bed. The construction cost, including built-in furniture is $23.80 per sq. ft.

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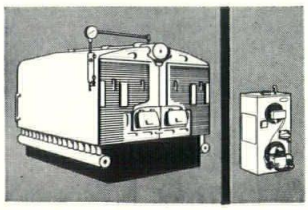

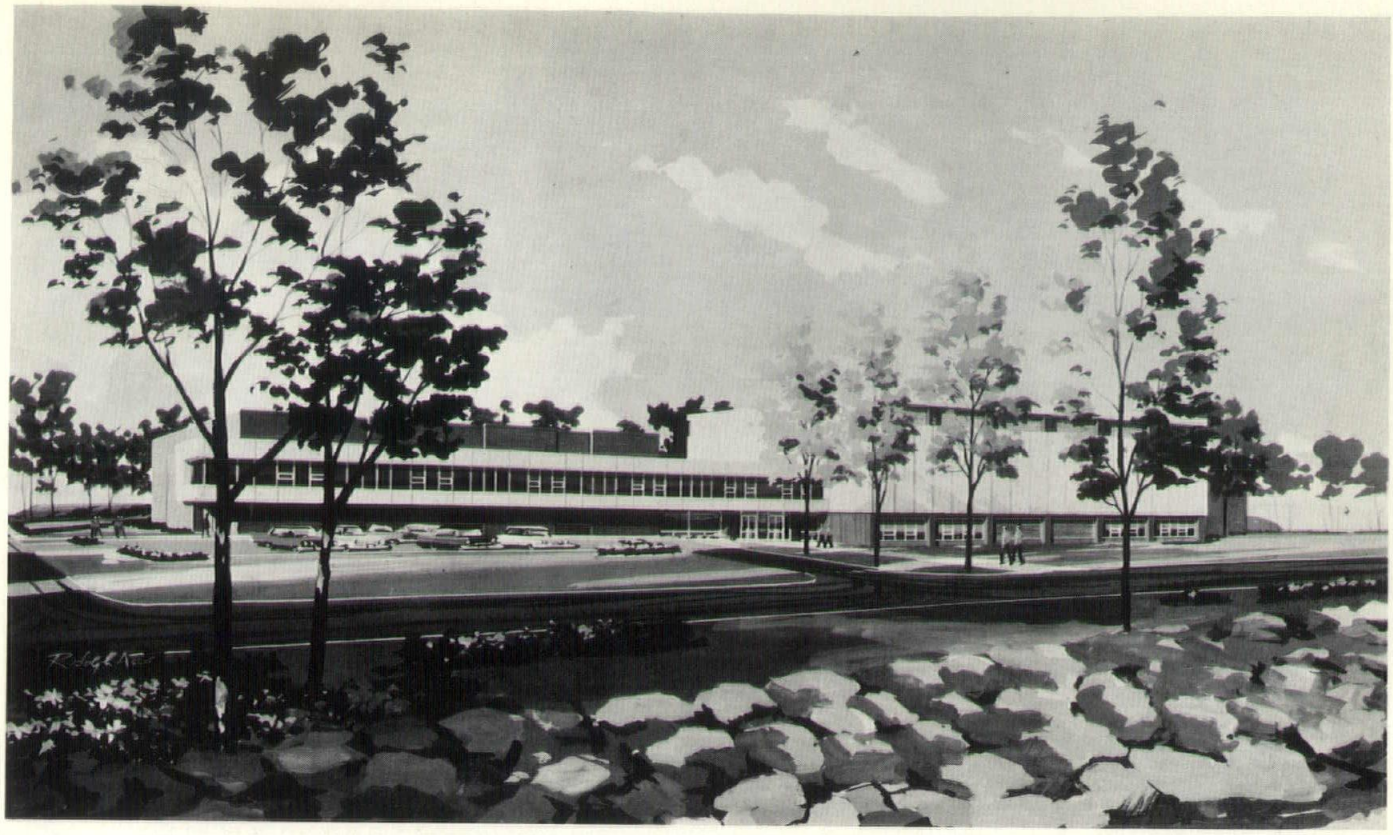

Designed to replace the present temporary wooden gymnasium structure at the New York State Maritime College at Fort Schuyler, this new plant will serve the needs of the approximately 600-man enrollment. The new building will contain a Gymnasium, Swimming Pool with Spectator Gallery, Handball Courts, Pistol Range, Bandroom, Meeting-rooms and Lockers. Construction will be of reinforced concrete, with precast concrete girders over the Gymnasium and Pool. Exterior materials are brick, slate and precast concrete structural facing panels.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING
MARITIME COLLEGE, FORT SCHUYLER, N.Y.

location • Fort Schuyler, New York
owner • State University of N.Y.
architects • State of New York
Department of Public Works
Division of Architecture
J. Burch McMorran, Superintendent
Carl W. Larson, State Architect

consulting architects • Ballard Todd Associates, New York City
structural engineers • Summers & Molke, Albany
mechanical engineers • Slocum & Fuller, New York City

This school is designed to be divided functionally into two buildings connected by an entrance foyer link. One building contains a library, four kindergarten rooms and 42 classrooms and the other the lunchroom, 420 seat auditorium and gymnasium, both, three stories high. The classrooms are placed around an open courtyard, the center of which serves as the kindergarten playground. Viewed from the windows above, the playground is intended to be a decorative area shaded by several large trees.

The auditorium, lunchroom and gymnasium have been designed on three levels, one above the other, to conserve space on a limited site. They will all be reached from a stairway located in the entrance foyer. These separate public areas allow the school to serve as a center of local evening activities without disturbing the classrooms.

The building facing is of pink brick in a pattern of piers every seven feet. Alternating recessed and projected brick panels form shadow lines giving the facade unusual interest. This treatment of the brick facade is designed to resemble a vast group of buildings built at the turn of the century in New York when it was found that stone or terra cotta trim was too expensive for the requirements of the times. This adds charm and a link with tradition in an otherwise all contemporary building.

The windows are projected beyond the face of the brick spandrel to create the spacious effect of bay windows. All metal doors and panels are a combination of dark gray with white trim. A decorative roof overhang caps the building.

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (P.S. 57 MAN.)

location • Borough of Manhattan, N.Y.C.
owner • Board of Education
The City of New York

architects • Ballard, Todd, & Snibbe
New York, N.Y.

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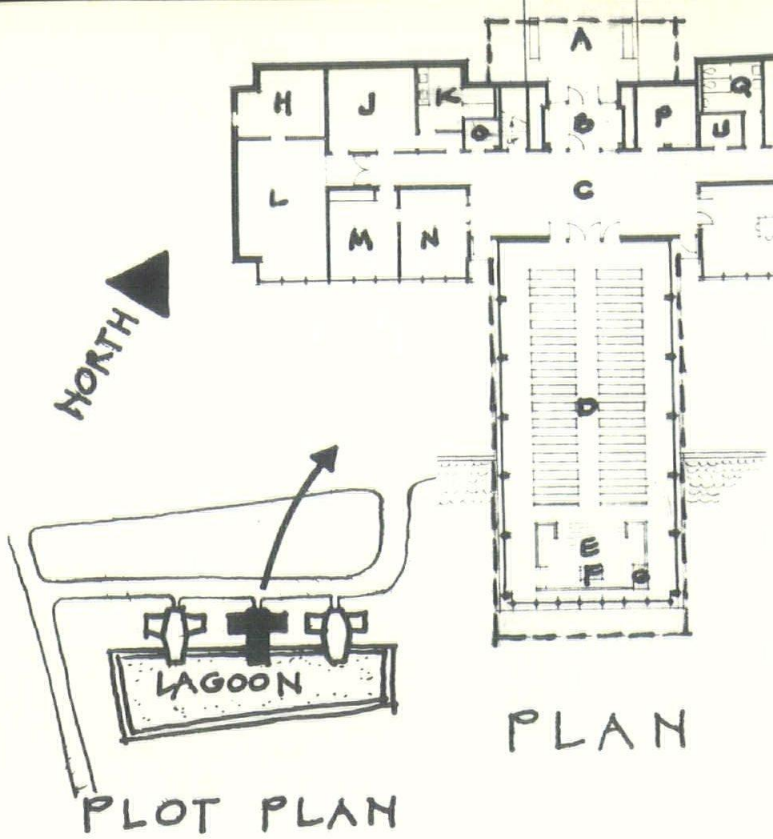

A Entrance Patio
B Vestibule
C Hall of Denominations
D Sanctuary
E Chancel
F Communion Table
G Organ Console
H Utility
J Nursery
K Women's Toilet
L Lounge
M Minister's Study
N Reception Office
O Telephone
P Coats & Storage
Q Men's Toilet
R Counselor's Office
S Meditation Chapel
T Reading Room
U Janitor's Closet

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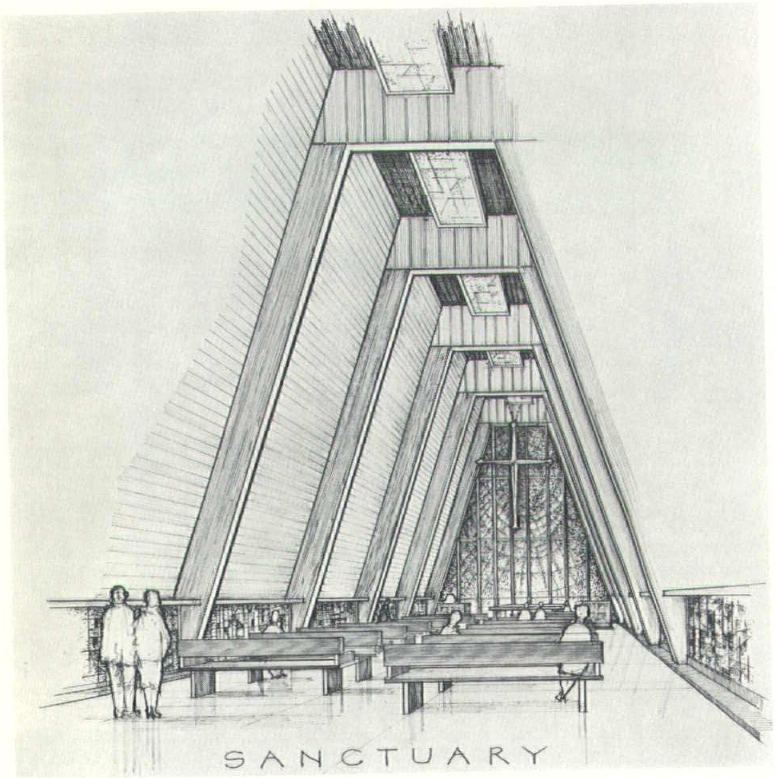
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

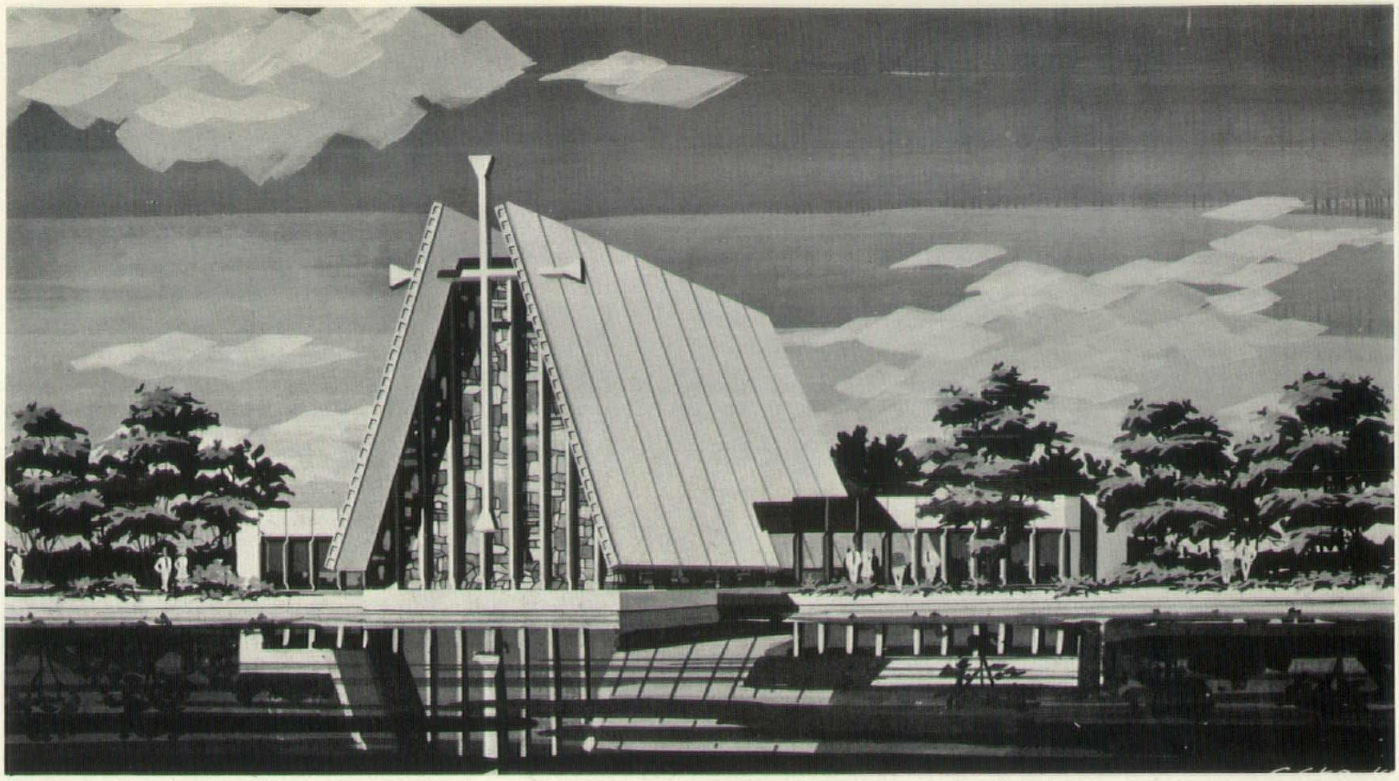


This project for chapels of the three faiths, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, began five years ago and has been revised since, due to site location change and coordination of design with the other chapels.

As the center of a tri-faith complex on the lagoon at New York International Airport, the Protestant Chapel will be the first Protestant chapel to be built at any U.S. airport. It will provide religious services for thousands of passengers and visitors in addition to permanent airport employees.

The drawings are completed, a contract let (Skinner & Cook, Inc. of New York City) and construction will begin shortly.

Shaped in the form of a Latin



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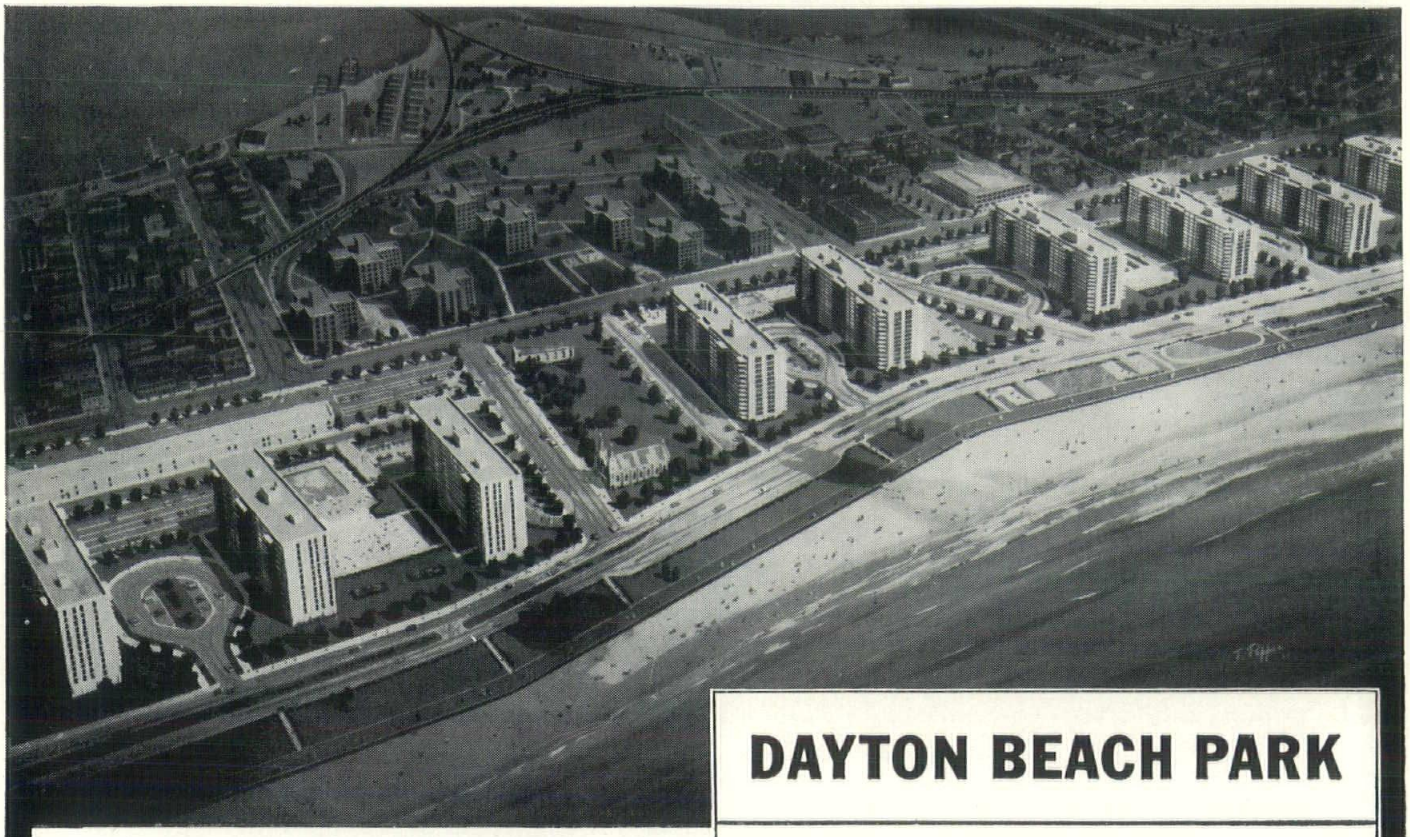
EDGAR TAFEL
ARCHITECT

cross, the chapel will project 30 feet into the lagoon, featuring a 40-foot-high modified A-frame sanctuary with stained glass windows at the entrance and lagoon sides. In addition to the 110 seat sanctuary, it will provide reception and counseling offices, minister's study, reading-room, lounge, nursery, and a small meditation chapel. The structure will be supported on concrete foundations and piles, with 4" wood decking for the sloping roof, sheathed in white granite and tiles, accented with colored stained glass windows and decorative lead coated copper trim. The interior will feature rough plaster and slate floors in the main rooms, and wood panelling and carpeting in others.



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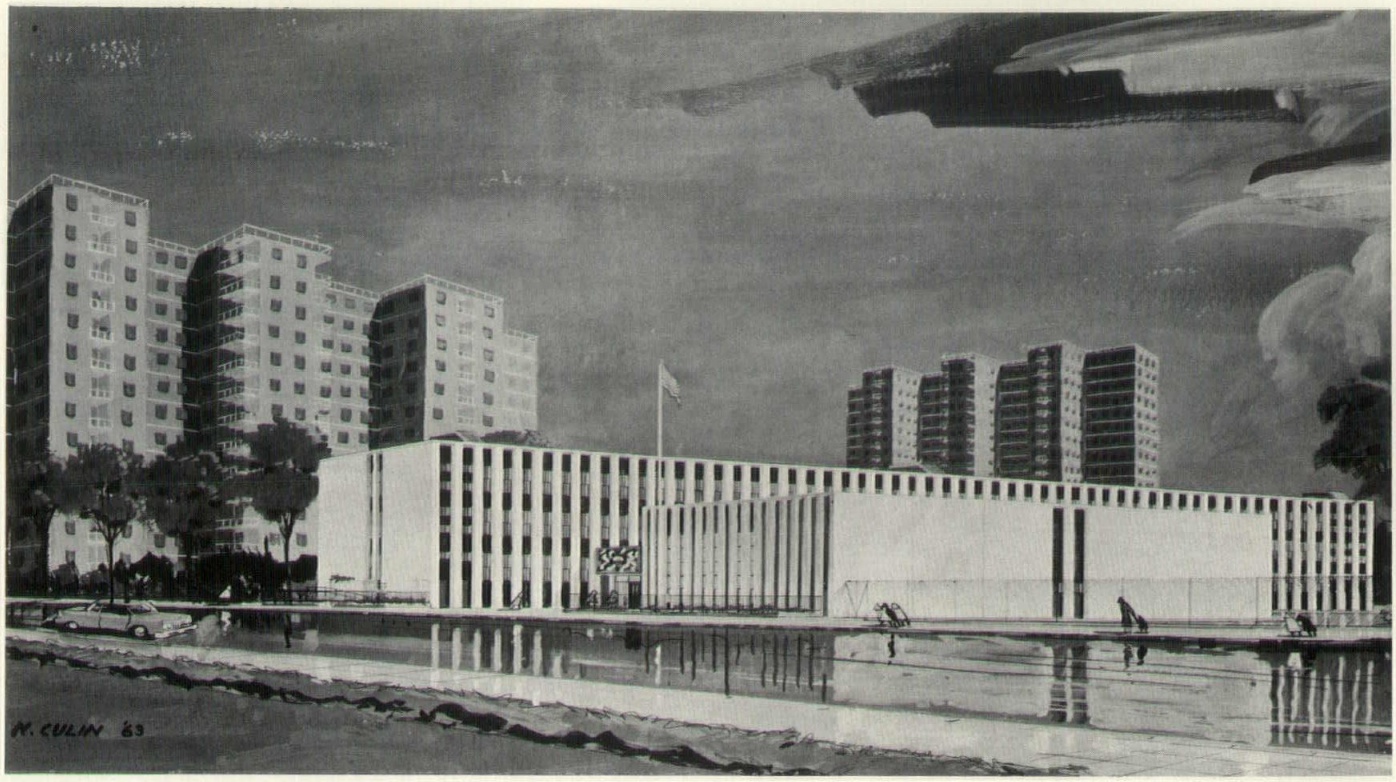


PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 30 QUEENS

location • Rochdale Village, Queens, N.Y.

owner • BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

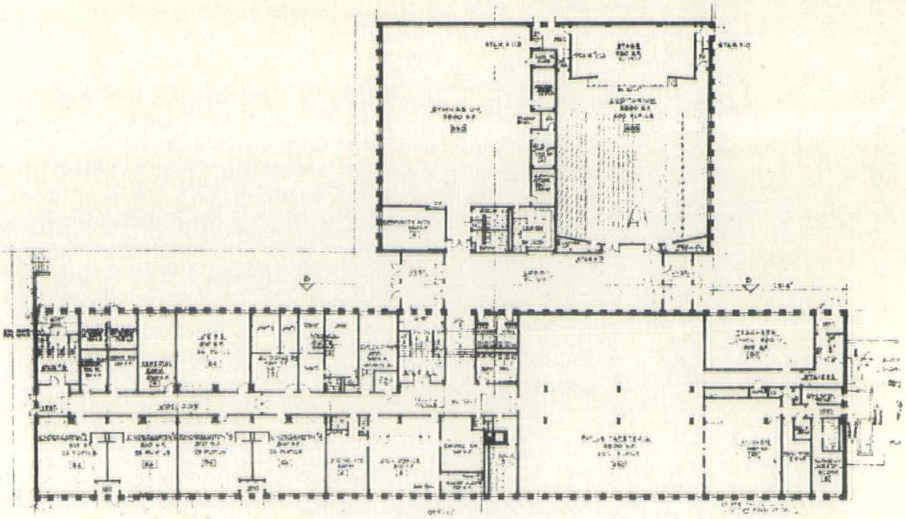
architects • FREDERICK G. FROST, JR.
& ASSOCIATES

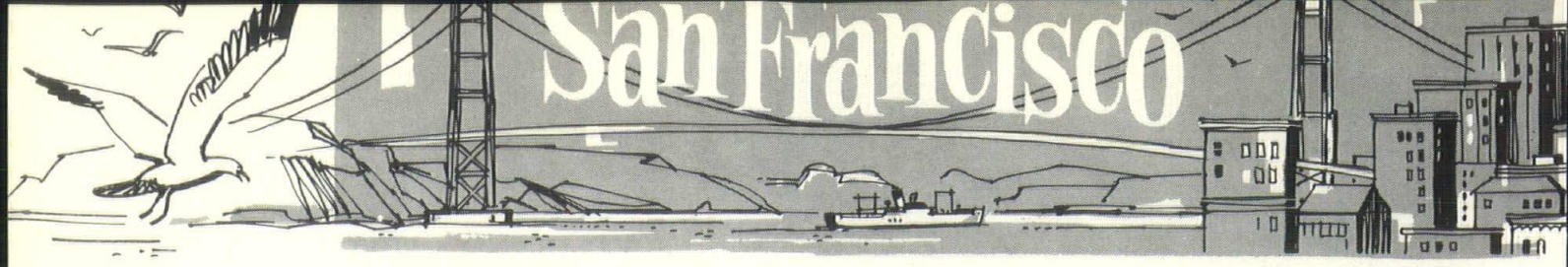
Public School No. 30 will be an elementary school for 1304 pupils. The school will contain 33 classrooms, a library, cafeteria, gymnasium and an auditorium seating 400. The school is planned in an "H" shape, with the classroom wing connected to the gymnasium-auditorium wing by the main school lobby.

The three story classroom wing will have a reinforced concrete frame and the gymnasium-auditorium wing will be steel-framed. Window spandrels will be faced with dark face brick, and the pilasters and other exterior wall areas will have light face brick. The copings will be cast stone. The fine arts budget for the school will be allocated to decorative treatments at both the front and rear entrances to the main lobby.

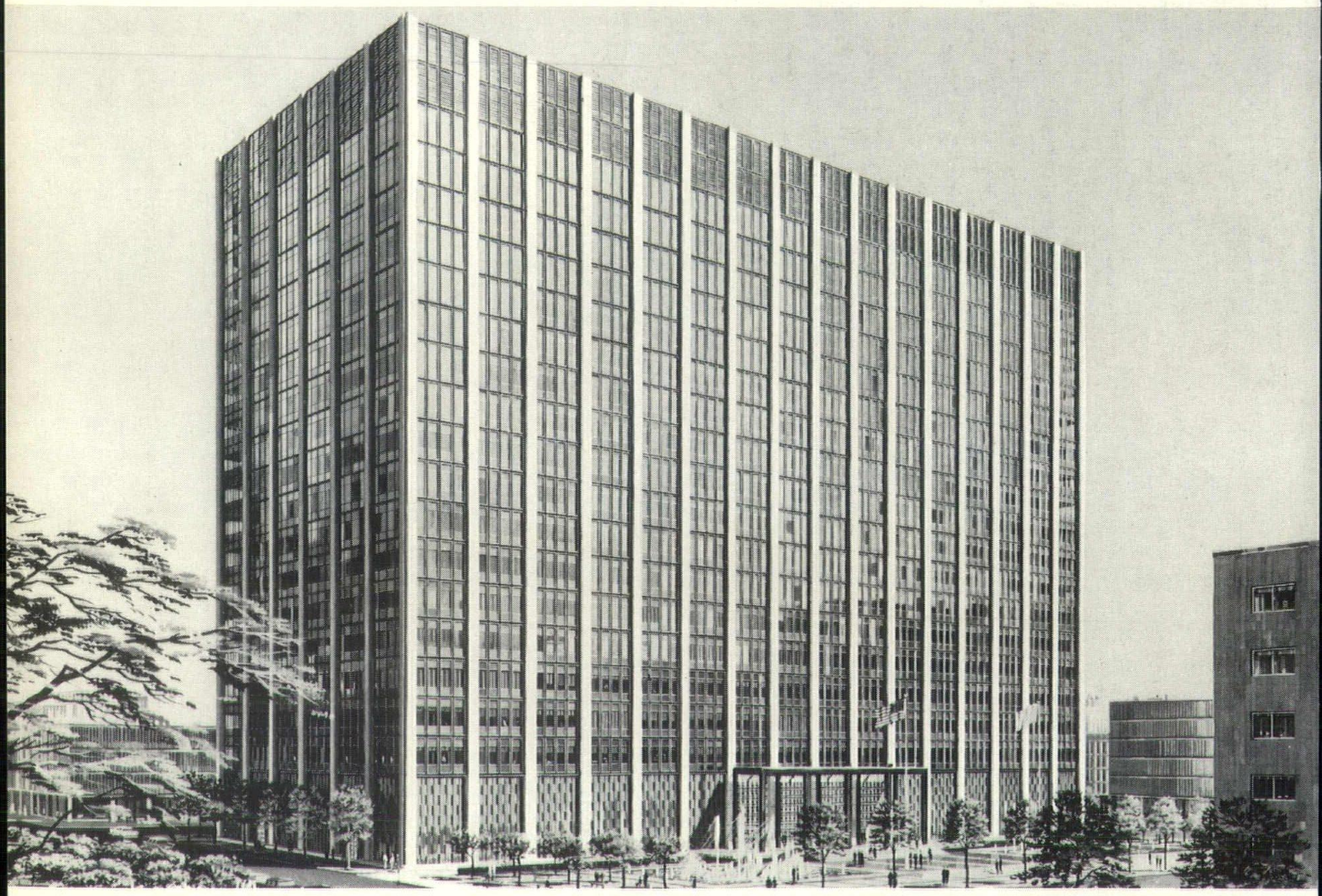
The school will occupy a site of two and one-half acres, of which slightly more than one acre will be developed as a playground to be operated jointly with the Department of Parks.

The estimated cost of this school is $2,300,000.





U. S. Courthouse and Federal Office Building, San Francisco, California. Architects and Engineers: Blanchard & Maher; Albert F. Roller; Stone Marraccini & Patterson; John Carl Warnecke. Contractors: (Joint Venturers) Roscoe-Ajax Construction Company, Inc., and Knickerbocker Construction Corporation.



25

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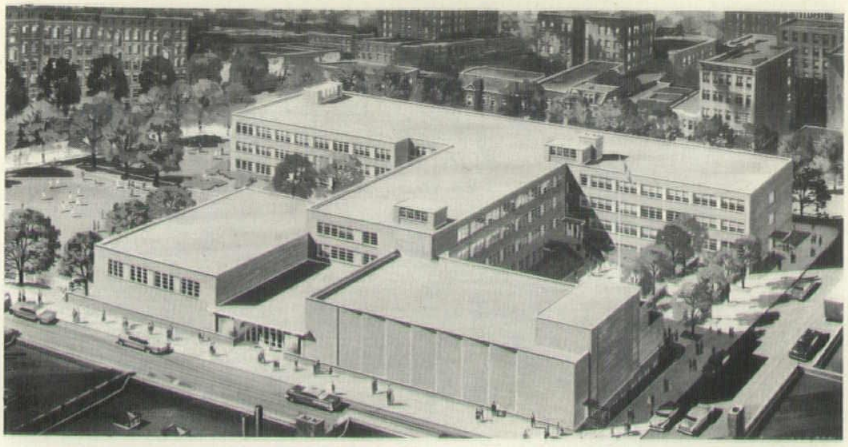
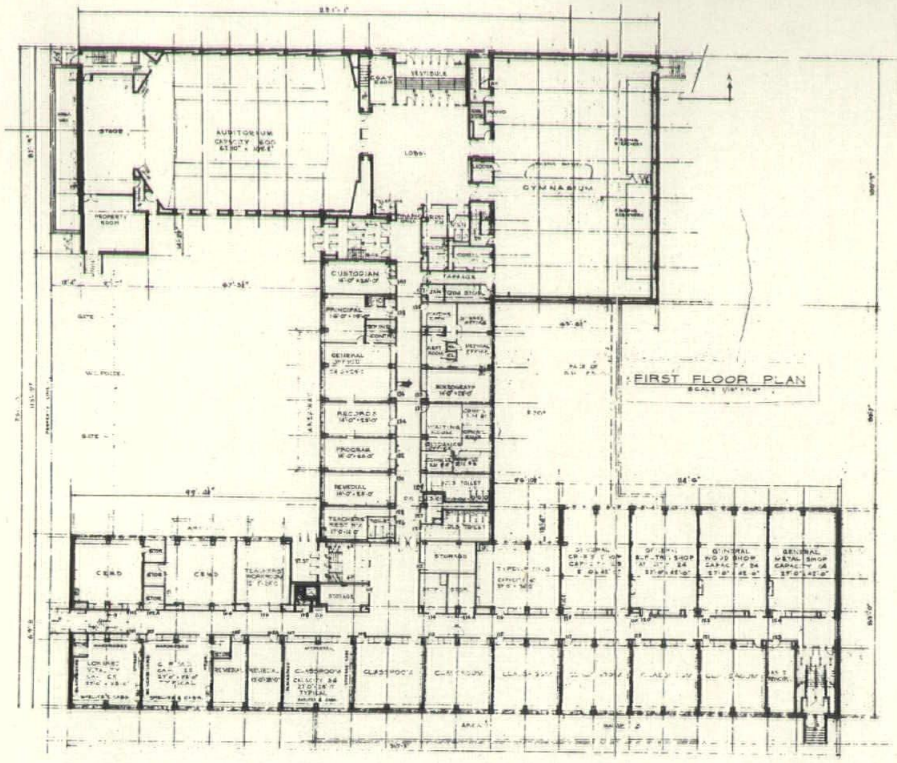
BRONX, N.Y.

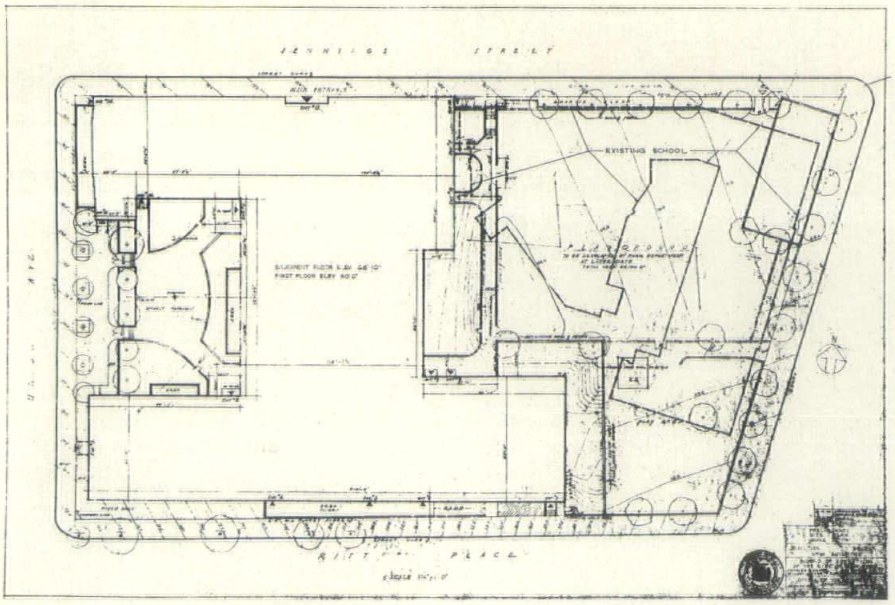
location • Bronx, New York City

owner • Board of Education
The City of New York

architects • Kiff, Colean, Voss & Souder
The Office of York & Sawyer





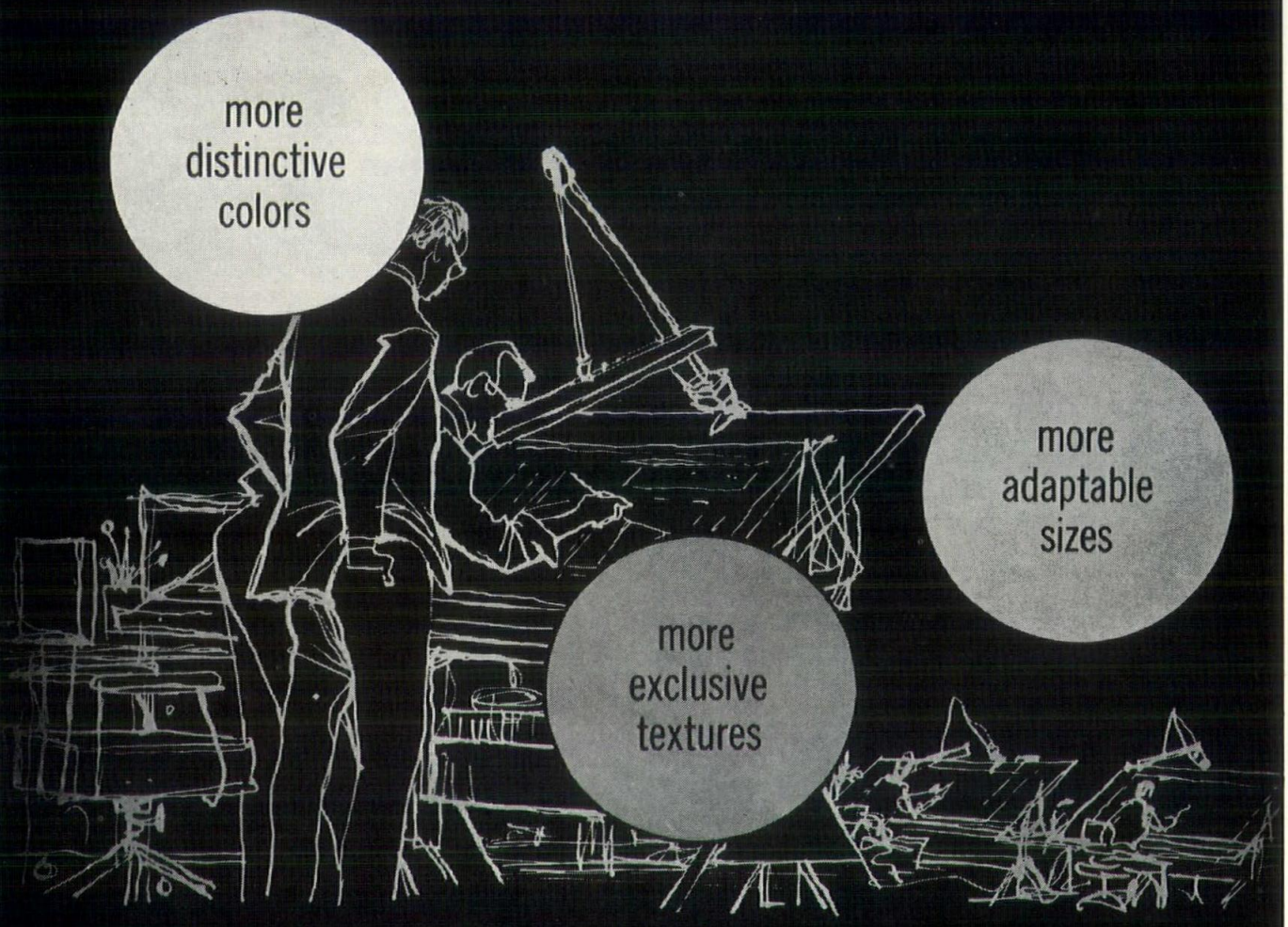


Designed to accommodate 2,197 pupils, the school is provided with 35 classrooms, 5 science-rooms, 4 art-rooms, 1 English-room, 1 library, 3 retarded mental development rooms, 1 typing-room, 2 cooking-rooms, 1 home living center, 1 home nursing center, 8 shops, 1 music-room and 1 bandroom. The auditorium is also designed for lectures, visual education, group instruction and as a study hall. The pupils cafeteria and the gymnasium are also available for large group instruction.

Provisions for health, physical education and corrective exercises is made by a restroom, remedial rooms, lowered vitality rooms, gymnasium (for each sex) and outdoor play areas, with adjacent doctors and nurses offices and waiting-room.

The mechanical equipment includes a two-pipe vacuum return oil-fired low pressure steam system designed to accommodate a future addition of 19 classrooms. The circulation is designed to enable extra curricular activities to be served independently of the school activities. Classrooms are heated by thermostatically controlled convectors, with provision for direct fresh air supply, and are ventilated by an exhaust system partly through wardrobes and through ductwork. All classrooms, corridors, shops, home economics and offices are provided with fluorescent lighting; all other areas generally have incandescent illumination. The entire building is equipped with a central public address system, telephone intercommunication, and a coded fire alarm system.

ARCHITECTURAL CREATIVITY DEMANDS



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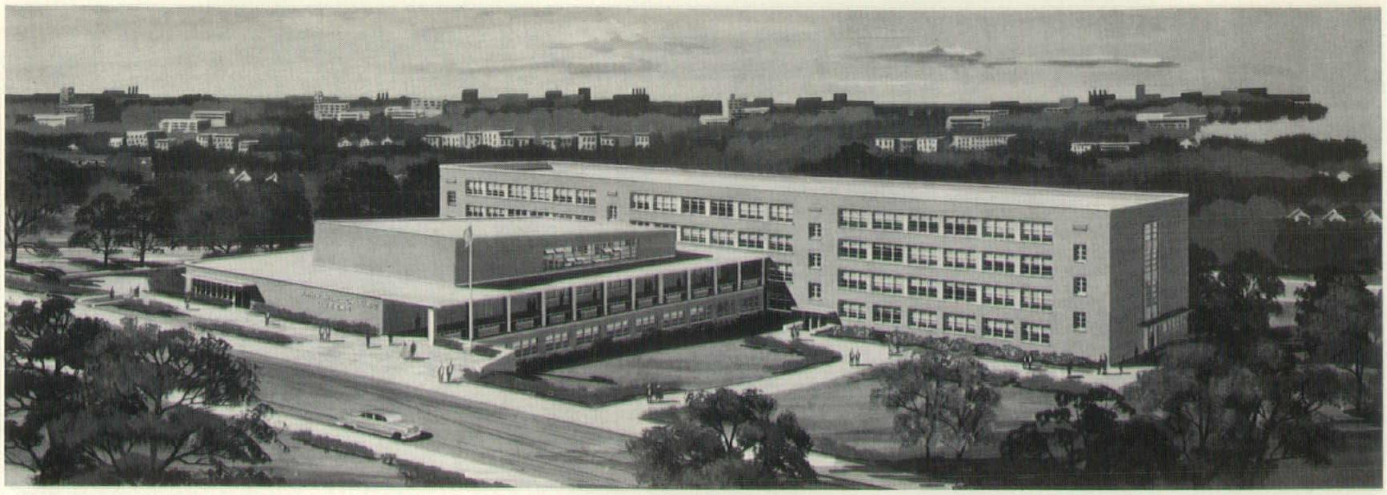
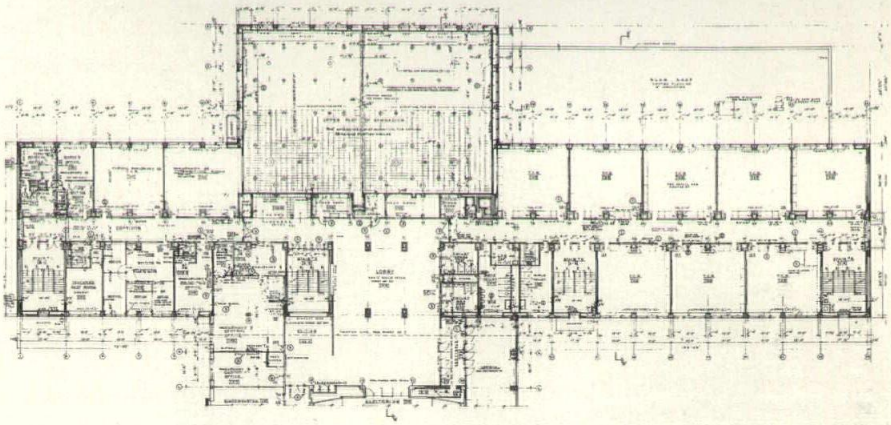
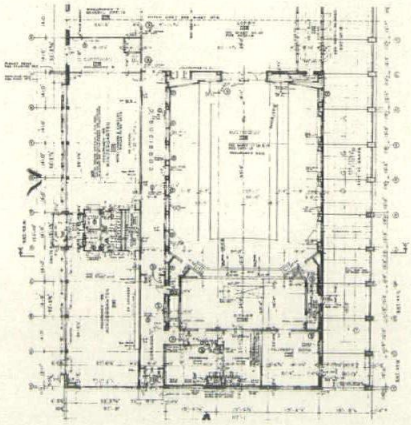


Designed to relieve an overcrowded situation resulting from 3100 new dwelling units in the community, the school provides facilities for 2042 pupils. Ranging from kindergarten, through grades 1 to 9, these include science, music, art, shops, typing, cooking, homemaking and other special rooms. Also provided are a Cafeteria, an Auditorium, Assembly Room, and Gymnasium, for study, lectures, visual education and large group instruction. Isolation of the Auditorium for community use is possible. Facilities for physical education and corrective exercises are included. Kindergarten areas are independent of the rest of the school.

By taking advantage of the hilly site, play areas for several age groups at different levels were provided and the building was made accessible on all sides without outside steps. The building is simply designed with a combination of speckled buff brick, ceramic tile, aluminum windows, and limestone copings. Low initial and maintenance costs required by the program were met with painted masonry walls and exposed concrete ceilings for the classrooms, glazed masonry units in corridors and stairs, and asphalt tile floors. It has fluorescent lighting, radio and public address stystem, intercommunication telephone, coded fire alarm, thermostatically controlled steam heating convectors in classrooms, admitting fresh air—mechanically exhausted, complete ventilation in other areas, and an incinerator. Inherent in the planning is provision for twelve additional classrooms.





First Floor Plan

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NO. 67 **QUEENS, N.Y.**

architects • Office of York & Sawyer,

owners • Architects Kiff, Colean, Voss & Souder
Board of Education
The City of New York

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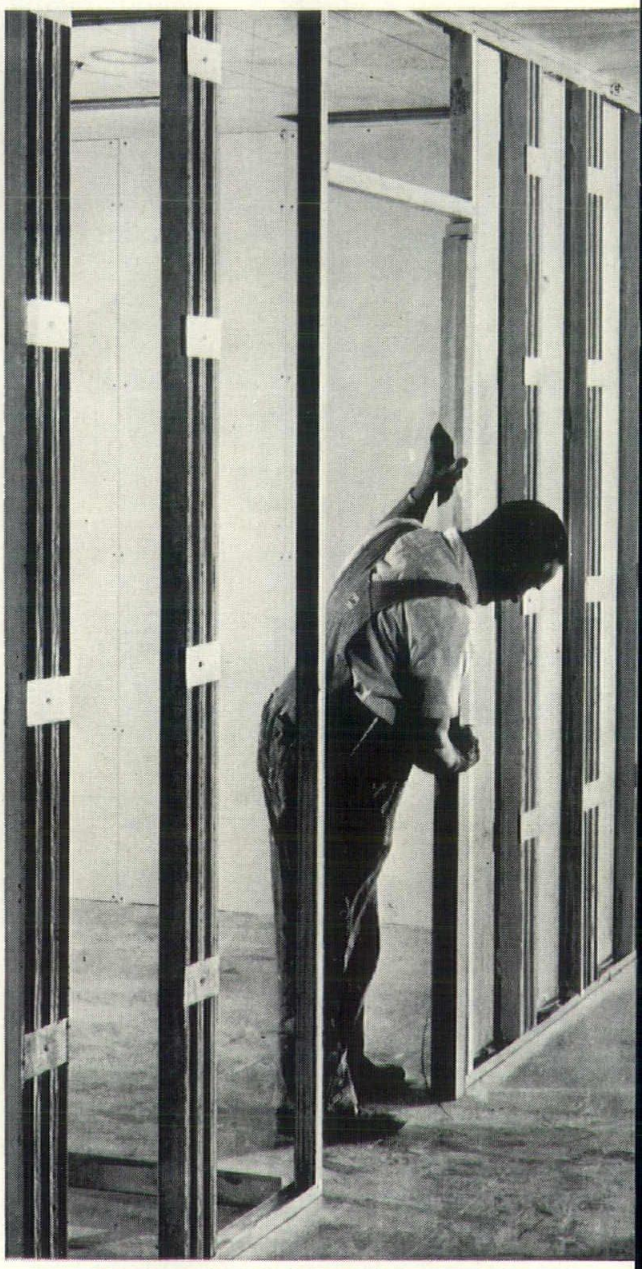

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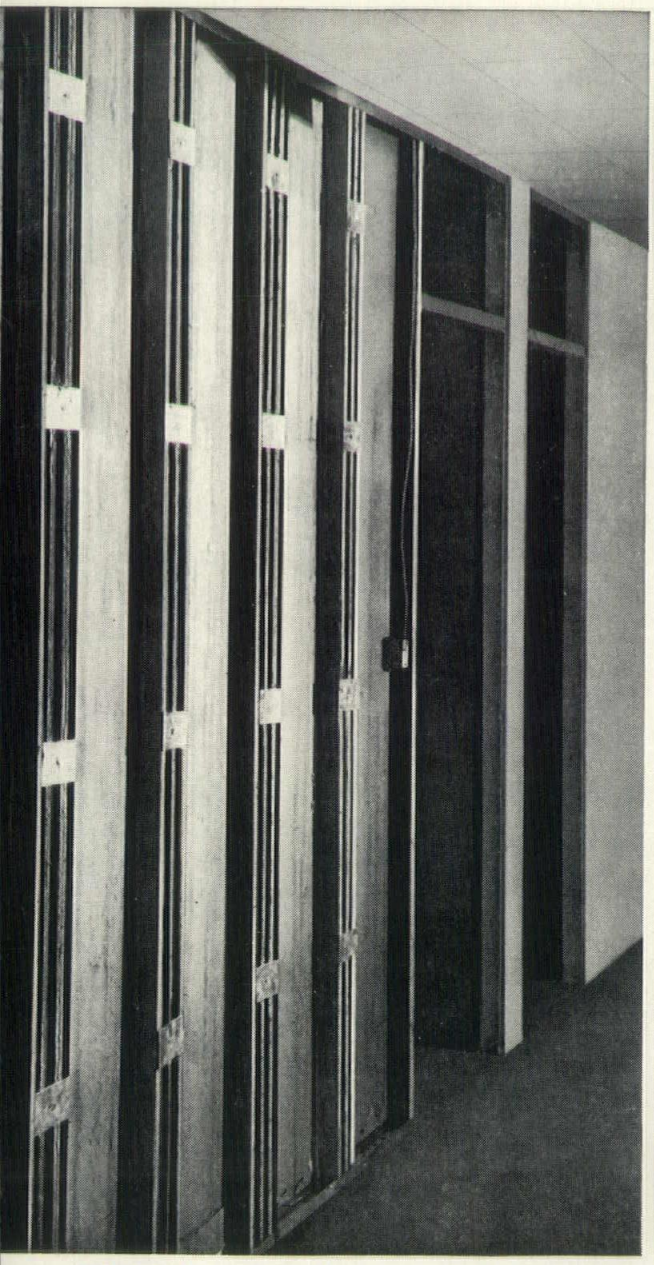

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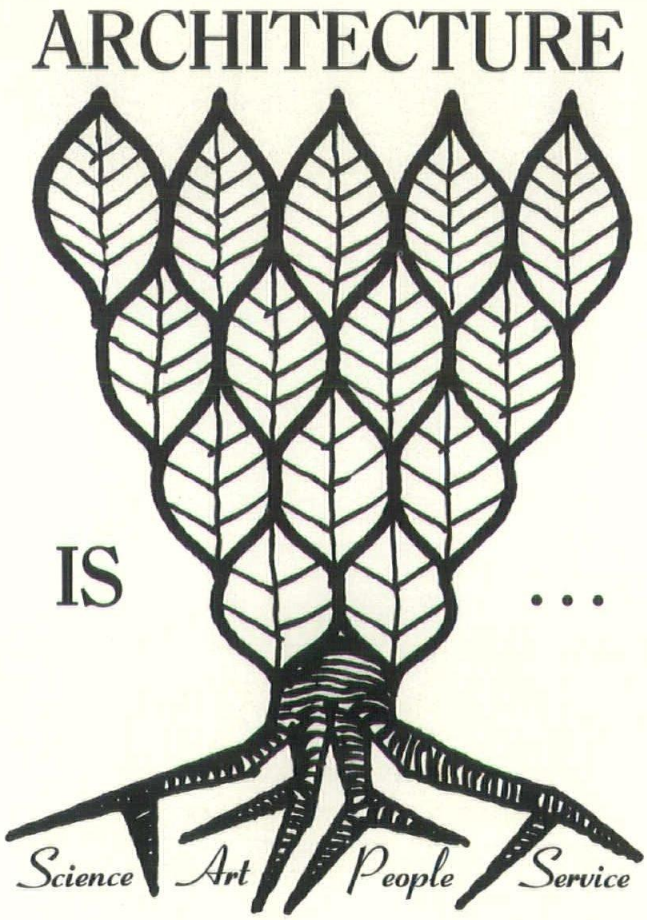
THE ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

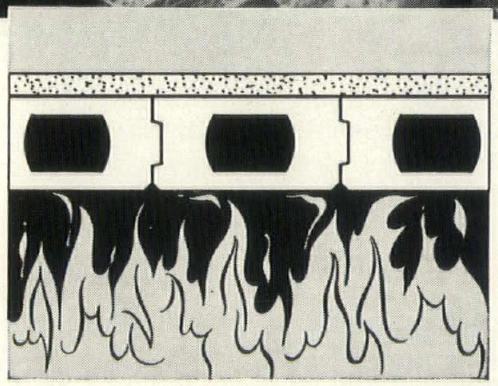
TELLS THE ARCHITECT'S STORY
IN AN INTERESTING WAY

Photo By Paul L. and Sally L. Gordon

Taking advantage of the occasion of having obtained a Charter as a self governing section of the Central New York Chapter AIA, the Rochester Society of Architects arranged a two-week exhibition (March 16 through March 30th) in the Mall of Midtown Plaza, Rochester, as a part of its public relations program. Midtown Plaza, featured in the July-August, 1962 issue of the Empire State Architect, is the urban renewal redevelopment project designed by Victor Gruen Associates, and is a significant element of the Rochester downtown area.

The Rochester Society of Architects designed a 400 square foot display demonstrating several aspects of architecture by means of models and photographs mounted on four-foot by eight-foot panels, and the continuous projection of colored slides. It also published a pamphlet, written and designed by its publication committee for free distribution. Entitled "Architecture Is . . . " the exhibit develops the themes of Architecture as a Science, as Art, as People and as Service. As Science, the booklet states, it provides systems for engineering and construction; as Art, it establishes esthetics of design and planning; as People it meets the living problems of people in their physical environment at work and at rest; and as Service, it converts ideas into drawings and descriptions, providing the means to bring the ideas into the reality of construction. The exhibit was attended at all times by a Rochester Society Architect to answer questions.





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Constituent Editor Quotes

BULLETIN

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

JOHN N. LINN, EDITOR

FROM FEBRUARY 1963 ISSUE

SAMUEL A. HERTZ HONORED

Failure to mention in the January issue of the BULLETIN, the special award presented to our esteemed member, SAMUEL A. HERTZ at the NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS Annual Dinner Dance and Installation of Officers on Tuesday evening, December 18, 1962, was not an oversight.

So much had to be reported about other happenings on that occasion that not only was there not room enough to say all that should have been said about Sam, there was too much chance that it could have been overlooked by our readers.

Samuel A. Hertz who has given unselfishly of his time and efforts to the benefits of the NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS for over one-third of a century, has not been forgotten. He will never be forgotten by us.

The award presented to Sam by Past President H. I. Feldman is a beautifully engrossed and illuminated scroll reading as follows:

> "In recognition for dedicated and devoted services in behalf of the Society extending over a period of one-third of a century. For his effective work in State Legislation, State Building Code, Administrative Code, Membership Committee, Multiple Dwelling Law Committee, Chairman of Activities, Overseer of Attendance at the meetings, and for numerous other services for the welfare of our profession. He has won the esteem, affection and respect of members of the NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS."

The scroll tells of our regard for and appreciation of Sam, but, neither it nor any words we are able to put together can really express what we feel and hold in our hearts for Samuel A. Hertz.

Sam was not so long ago "re-elected" in our Society to the honorable estate of Life Membership. Sam is now a "Member Emeritus" but, that does not mean to Sam that he is expected to lean back upon his laurels. Sam continues to be just as active as ever and just as loyal, eager and sincere in his labors for our Society as he ever has been. We hope sincerely that Sam will continue, just as he always has, for many years to come.

NEWSLETTER

ROCHESTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

MICHAEL DORN, EDITOR

Now we are AIA!

What does this mean? There are many answers to this question but two of which seem to be foremost. One—affiliation with the AIA gives us status. The AIA is the nationally recognized association of architects and the status we will enjoy is the strength that our local Society is part of an influential professional organization. Secondly, while architects are individualistic in outlook, they have common needs and a central body can supply the nourishment required by all.

Judging by these two answers offered, it may be seen that membership in AIA is purely a means to an end. What is the end? This is best described in one sentence of our Constitution "To provide a means of mutual action by the Architectural Profession for the advance of the Standards of Architectural Practice, for ever increasing service to the Community and for broadening the understanding and appreciation of the Profession by the Community".

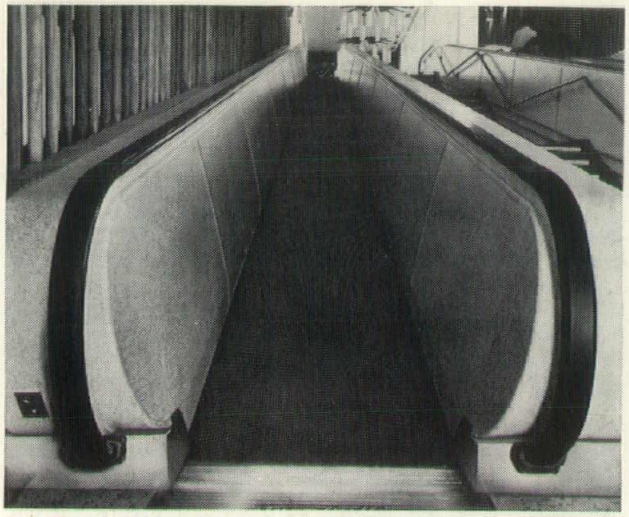
As affiliates of the AIA we still owe our prime loyalty to our Society. A member who has the talents should by all means partake in Chapter or National AIA affairs but no one should lie back and think that the central organizations will carry us.

As usual, hard work and imaginative effort is the only thing that will foster our Society. The success of the recent Exhibition in Midtown Plaza is a result of using these qualities. The Exhibition, we hope is the keynote of a new phase in the life of the Society. If we rest on our laurels now within a few months we would be back where we started (and broke in the bargain!) If we start now considering future plans and continue to put ourselves before the public — not with loud noise — but with imaginative propaganda, we will fulfill our constitutional requirements.

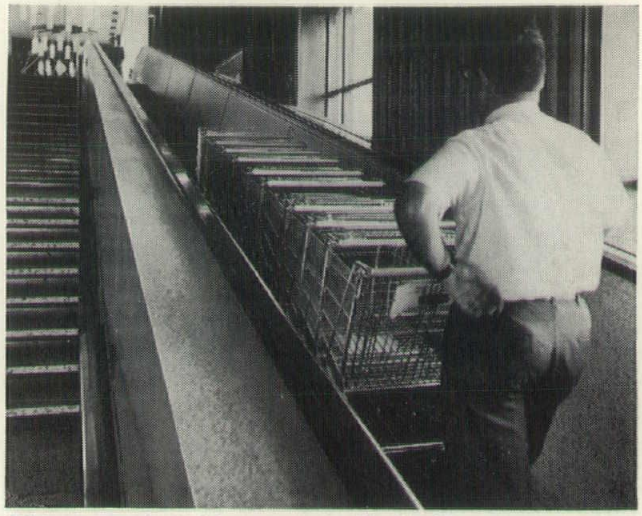
OCULUS

Continued from Page 37

Over the years the patching and alterations have not ruined the design of Colonnade Row nor seriously affected its scale or dignity (though the four remaining houses are in dire need of repair). It remains the only large scale example of domestic Greek Revival architecture in the city.

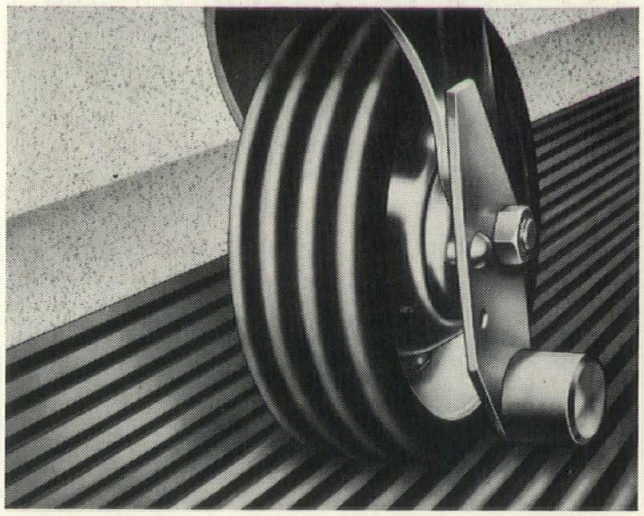


New Turnbull "Pedesta-Ride" Moving Walkway.



Efficient return of nested shopping carts—no "roll-back".

Demonstration of "Pedesta-Brake" in action—safe, simple, no "roll-away".



Turnbull "Pedesta-Brake"—uncomplicated and positive.

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Private Practice vs Civil Service

By ROBERT MOSES

In various parts of the nation renewed efforts are being made to force public officials to use only permanent civil service technicians in the preparation of engineering, architectural, landscape and related plans and specifications for public works and for supervision of construction of such works. Civil service associations and groups, ambitious and jealous bureaucrats and innocent people misled by plausible propaganda have been triggering these attacks for years. Contrary to the old aphorism, opportunity to swell the ranks of government employees in these days of huge armament, arterial, housing and building expenditures knocks again and again and may, if we do not think and act, become irresistible.

Mine is no attack on the permanent Government agencies, in which I have long been enrolled, or upon many exceptionally able, experienced, underpaid and unrecognized men and women who are fully as competent, honest and ambitious as any to be found in more lucrative private employment. I propose to make an honest, impartial analysis of the reasons why relying on the rank and file of public employees to furnish all professional advice, diagnosis, plans and supervision to the exclusion of consultants would be suicidal.

Let me offer an example of the drive for exclusive government planning. In connection with the vast new Federal Aid Highway Program, involving some fifty billion dollars over a period of twelve years, and especially the 41,000-mile interstate network, there has been serious discussion at various meetings of state highway officials of eliminating private firms. The adoption of such a policy, if it were followed by legislation to put it into effect, would in my opinion go far toward ruining this great program, especially in the urban areas of the nation, and would inevitably spread into the design and inspection of other public works, including slum clearances, housing, power, bridges, parks and every conceivable kind of construction carried on or aided by public funds.

The objective of the proponents of this philosophy is clearly to prevent the employment on public work of skilled professional private consultants, experts and technicians, notably competent engineering and architectural firms, and to relegate all such work to permanent public employees, to bureaucrats, and to the political leaders who are over the bureaucrats. The character of the work to be performed, the size of the program, the urgency of the improvements, and above all, the professional and technical skills and problems involved, and the necessity of independent judgment and superior talent are ignored. Government engineers are essential. So are outside consultants. Both have their place.

The almanacs show every year that there are more and more government employees — federal, state and municipal. This is logical up to a point and there is no use getting hysterical about it, but a prodigious and alarming increase in the next decades, not explicable or justified by population growth, higher standards, greater demands and better services, represents a tendency which must be watched and controlled. Otherwise, before long pretty nearly everybody will be working for the government — certainly not a happy prospect. In any event, there can be no excuse for transferring to public offices outside professional talent which can be hired to do the work in private offices. Public housekeeping and protective forces must grow, but consultants need not multiply like rabbits to keep pace with the population.

Government employees must take care of budgeting programs, routine construction, overhead policy decisions, supervision, review and coordination of plans, maintenance and other essential overhead work. Thereafter, the use of outside professional firms and technicians is the logical and economical method of progressing engineering and architectural design and supervision of most large construction projects.

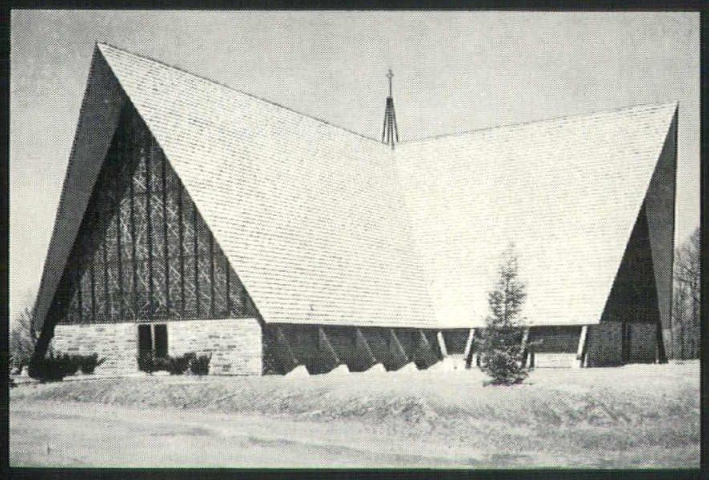
It has become increasingly difficult to find people in public employment competent to meet our big construction requirements, many of them brought about as a result of work stoppage during the war years and postwar expansion, population increases and other factors. Many qualified engineers and architects have left public service for better paying positions in private practice. Private firms move much faster in progressing large building programs. Multiplying civil service technicians means recruiting by examination, slow promotions, tremendous overhead costs usually not fully reported to the public, delays slow motion, and futile attempts to make an effective team out of people who usually lack incentives for imaginative concepts, speed and economy.

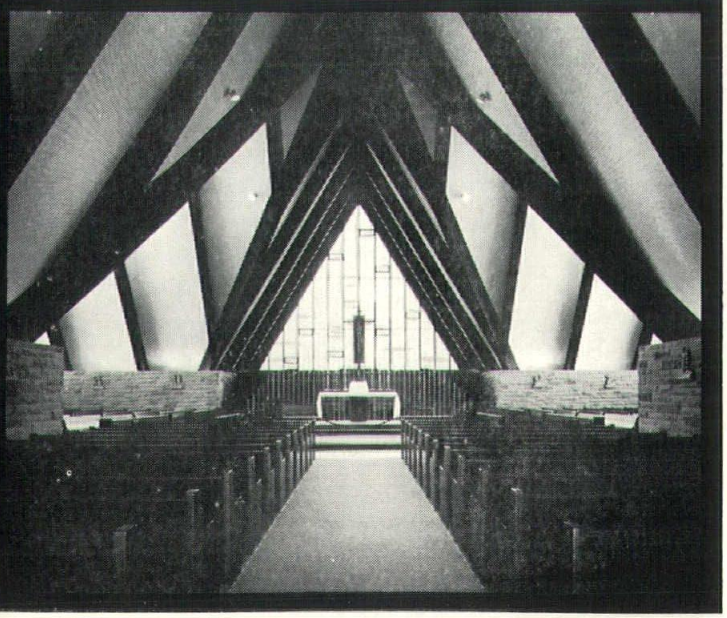
Permanent government engineering organizations recruited to handle huge construction programs acquire rights, privileges and protections under laws which make it impossible to tailor their size to current needs. They go on indefinitely. Work has to be made for them if, as in most instances, they live on capital construction as distinguished from expense budget appropriation. The cost of engineering, design and inspection by government agencies run up to 18 per cent of estimated construction costs, according to surveys made by the Hoover Commission in its second report as against an average of 4 per cent for design and 4 per cent for inspection ordinarily paid to private consulting firms who have to meet their entire overhead bills and pay full taxes.

These Hoover studies of eight billion dollars' worth of construction concluded:

"By contracting to private architect-engineer and construction organizations all phases of design and construction work on Government construction projects, relatively small supervisory engineering organizations in the executive agencies could furnish the preliminary study, preplanning and budgeting, and the supervisory management and control essential for all Government projects, without maintaining through period of fluctuating demands the present costly overhead for complete engineering and construction staffs. With minor exceptions, the Atomic Energy Commission has been operating under such a program. If other Federal agencies could attain the operating efficiency of the AEC, the savings to the Government in just the cost of design and supervision of construction, on the basis of present

Continued on Page 30





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PRIVATE PRACTICE VS. CIVIL SERVICE

Continued from Page 28

volume of business, would be more than $100 million annually. Other authoritative studies substantiate the conclusion that engineering plans and supervision in a typical state highway department range as high as 16 per cent of the cost of construction, while private engineering firms generally work for half that amount. There have been instances where rapid transit engineering costs by regular forces have run even higher."

There are those who assume or profess to believe that permanent Government engineers, architects and draftsmen turn out satisfactory work and meet schedules at moderate cost because of low public pay. Actually, in many instances, urgent projects are delayed, postponed, shelved or saved up to be worked on when inadequate forces get around to it and so as to stagger their chores and leave no intervals without funds.

As a squirrel buries nuts for future consumption, the tendency of a permanent staff is to keep plenty of plans in abeyance and not to work itself out of a job. It is almost always opposed to hiring outside services. This is human nature. Most state highway departments cannot equip themselves with skills which are needed only infrequently. Their staffs do not have the experience, the drive, the ambition and the discipline to handle large programs smoothly and on schedule.

There is unfortunately a prevalent type of engineering and architectural and planning bureaucrat who measures his power and prestige by the number of subordinates working for him, or the space they occupy in public offices, by the length of the rows of drafting tables and typewriter desks, and by the accumulation of instruments and other paraphernalia.

There are, too, the rarer ones who take up little room, command only a few good men and farm out the work to firms which operate in rented space, hire their help in the market, sharpen their own pencils, pay the lighting company, and like Rufus Rastus Johnson Brown, have to figure out what to do when the rent comes 'round.

Outside professional consultants, firms and companies can seek their talent anywhere regardless of restrictions; they can advance and reward at will; they can make it possible for exceptional men to become partners. Public business, on the other hand, suffers from mortmain from absurd residence and age restrictions, seniority systems, veteran and other preferences, uniform efficiency ratings which in any event cannot reflect either lively imagination or executive ability, all aimed to maintain a level of satisfied mediocrity and the democratic rule of the lowest common denominator.

Elimination of employment of outside private professional firms and technicians would force state, city and other municipalities to expand their already unwieldy and extremely expensive permanent engineering staffs to meet emergencies and peaks in construction programs. It is doubtful if many competent engineers and architects with specialized training and knowledge would accept civil service employment where their abilities might be put to use only a few times in their entire careers. The alternative of securing infrequent, occasional, overhead advice on a per diem or piecework basis is not practical because of divided responsibility and because actual technical design after consultation would be left in the hands of inexperienced personnel.

The construction of the St. Lawrence and Niagara power projects, involving an expenditure of over a billion dollars, is being carried out on a tight schedule engineered by an eminent private firm of consultants with recognized experience throughout the world in hydroelectric power construction. It was logical to turn to private engineers specializing in this kind of work. Recruiting a great planning and inspection staff overnight through civil service competitive examinations to prepare contract specifications for a program of this magnitude would have been doomed to failure from the start.

There is no mystery as to how these firms obtain their men. Engineers as well as contractors gravitate toward the big job whether it is a hydro plant, bridge, tunnel, or new express artery. On the Niagara and St. Lawrence projects, by employing consulting firms, we got the experience of men from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Engineers and private agencies long involved in this type of work, men who have worked on every large dam and hydro plant in the United States and many abroad.

The Public Works task force which I headed under the direction of the first Hoover Commission made a thorough study of the subject of engineering personnel. Our report pointed out that the traditional tendency to build up a large permanent civil service force, in the absence of a foreseeable and continuing need, should be opposed and counteracted, and that such forces in many Government engineering bureaus invite justified criticism by multiplication of permanent personnel and overhead expenses for specific projects which would be better and more cheaply designed and supervised by consulting firms.

"We need competent top engineers in civil service," the report stated, "but it is only human nature for the rank and file who are paid out of limited project funds to string out the work and make it last as long as possible. Adoption of a policy to retain qualified engineers engaged in private practice for specific purposes on a fee basis would expedite work, reduce overhead costs, afford an opportunity to secure specialized personnel for such specialized work, and would encourage professional pride without weakening the esprit de corps of the permanent civil service personnel."

In any permanent Government organization with a reasonably small number of regular employees, there should be first-rate professional men and technicians on a par with the best in private employment, competent to engage and direct the activities of outside consultants on design and contractors on construction.

In World War II, military and related establishments more and more adopted the practice of employing outside consultants for specific tasks of limited duration, and got away from the old practice of building an immense permanent staff for projects performed better, more quickly and more cheaply by private engineering and architectural firms experienced in the latest developments in their particular fields, and familiar with the problems of the locality, physical difficulties at the site, local building codes and availability of local labor.

I cannot make it too plain that the top so-called civil service career men, the

Continued on Page 32

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PRIVATE PRACTICE VS. CIVIL SERVICE

Continued from Page 30

skilled professional and technical people in Government—not the hidebound, old-fashioned bureaucrats—have no superiors and few equals in private practice and corporate businesses. Private enterprise has no monopoly of brains.

It must be admitted, however, that in Government departments there are altogether too many routine red-tape artists, clock watchers, comma chasers, and writers of cautious gobbledygook letters and interoffice memos for the files. The rank and file are held down by absurd promotion rules, overlooked and underpaid, and there are too many who, like Falstaff's army, are the cankers of a calm world.

The dilemma may, to be sure, be avoided by mechanical brains and automation. Pretty soon engineering may be reduced to expediting. Problems will be shot to Univac by pneumatic tube and come zooming back neatly packaged and completely solved the next day.

What happens in Government service, where there is some urgent job to be done and an exceptional man is available, was recently illustrated by the career of Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover, in the case of atomic submarine. Here an iconoclast, no doubt smarting under old wounds, irritating and impatient, picks his helpers from junior officers, defies the system, tramples on custom. The traditional brass got out their swords and cyanide, muttered that the man never stood a watch, and cut him off from promotion and recognition until the press and public came to his rescue.

At that, he had a narrow shave. The ablest heads in public service must be given incentives and rewards to keep them down with hordes of subordinates primarily interested in security in no kindness to them. They should have the greatest outside professional talent made available to them for design, just as they should have the best private contractors in the field. Experience has taught us that building by force account, that is, by Government labor, is an expensive, long-winded business. Private contractors can be hired by the use of competitive bids but the consultants must be picked by the public officials who carry the responsibility, usually on the basis of recommendations of the heads of the permanent staffs.

No doubt there will occasionally be favoritism, politics, pull and other extraneous reasons for the selection of this or that consulting firm, but the government service is not free from such considerations either. No system yet devised is absolutely foolproof. The time is still far off when, as Kipling said: "Only the Master shall blame; and no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame."

I am quite aware of other faults which appear here and there when private consultants are employed on public works—new, untried, fly-by-night firms without much experience or talent, smarties who make others do their work, chiselers who assign too few men, especially on inspection, ugly rumors, if not positive evidence, of political pressures and contributions in the selection of consultants, tough competition of firms for a large planning sum involved, irksome problems of choice between and among the contenders.

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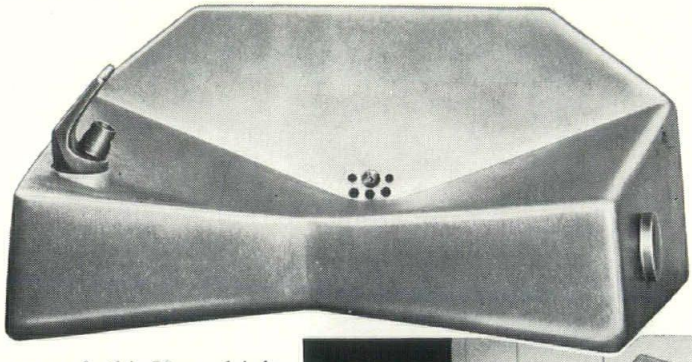

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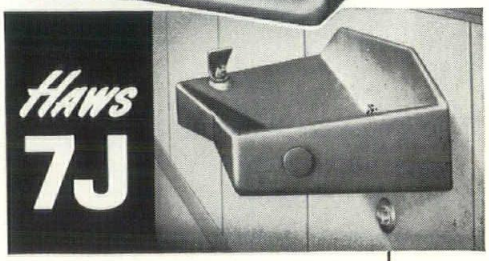

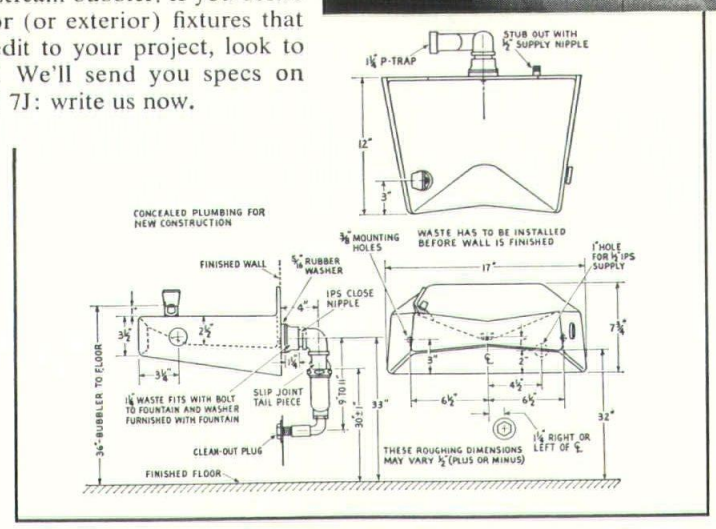

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HOWARD BATTIN, EDITOR

STATUS

Status, as expressed in architectural terms, has had quite an airing lately. The expressions, in capital form, of executive status have been reviewed in books and popular magazines, and a trend seems to be forming which is favorable to architects.

Status apparatus runs all the way from a six by six platform with a desk on it for a supervisor, to a six room suite for a president.

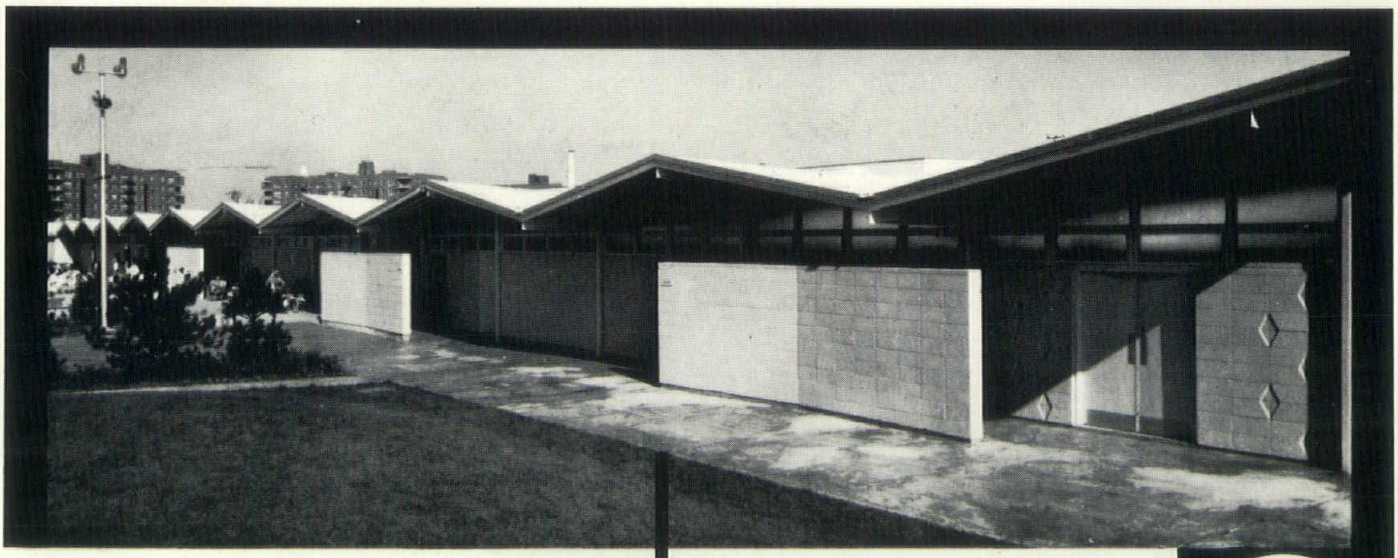
Status symbolism is an art that architects should master for fun and money. It is just another step toward the completion of a building, a step that is no more difficult than the thousand and one steps already taken in the interest of client and tenant. Those who have taken the step say it is a little like stepping through a looking glass into a land where fancy reigns and whimsy is served by all the arts of design and construction.

Status is "Condition, State, Position, Rank, Social or Professional Standing," according to the dictionary. It is the "Environmental Calibration of Power and Glory," according to the protocol experts. It is a "Bowl of Gravy", to designers and builders.

Imagine plowing through story after finished story with a private elevator shaft, then lining the cab with Morocco leather and wiring it for Muzak. Imagine busting through finished floors to provide a vaulted, molded, gilded, decorated, panelled, chandeliered, carved, carpeted and draped setting for a priceless painting. Imagine busting through a finished floor to install an outsize, sunken, one-piece porphyry tub in an outsize bathroom containing a Steuben crystal "Luxlav" mounted on a wall of handmade and individually glazed tile. Imagine articulating insulated and isolated walls of solid Aralia, Dahurian or Paldau and floors of select triple-tanned pigskin.

Now imagine what you can do with the fees you can collect for this highly specialized work. Time was when architects left this field to be gleaned by decorators who desecrated property, denuded owners and desecrated honored and respected art forms. This unhappy situation is being remedied by architects who are following through to the satisfaction of status-happy tenants.

Status apparatus is expensive, the demands are severe, the standards are exacting, and the techniques are intricate, but architectural training plus experience and a little native talent is all it takes to achieve satisfactory solutions, and the rewards are great.



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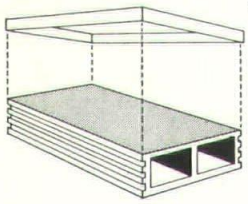

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BULLETIN

NEW CIVIC CENTER

The New York State Association of Architects has joined with the Architects of New York City in urging the President to direct the GSA to cooperate with the City of New York in the efforts to create the new Civic Center.

The following telegram was sent to President Kennedy by S. Elmer Chambers, President of The New York State Association of Architects:

President John F. Kennedy
The White House
Washington, D.C.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of The New York State Association of Architects held in Albany on March 11, 1963, I was directed by the unanimous vote of the Board which represents 2,300 registered architects in the State of New York, to respectfully urge you to direct the General Services Administration to cooperate with Mayor Robert F. Wagner of the City of New York in his efforts to create a new and exemplary civic center in the City Hall-Foley Square area.

The New York Civic Center is of great national significance as the gateway to all America and as the reception center for foreign dignitaries and celebrities for whom ticker tape parades often are held at the request of Washington.

We architects hail your adoption of the report by the AD HOC Committee on Federal Office Space on May 23, 1962, as the guiding principles for federal architecture, and we particularly refer to Point Three of the Committee's recommended Three-Point Architectural Policy for the Federal Government, quoted as follows:

3. The choice and development of the building site should be considered the first step of the design process. This choice should be made in cooperation with local agencies. Special attention should be paid to the general ensemble of streets and public places of which the Federal Buildings will form a part. Where possible, buildings should be located so as to permit a generous development of landscape. Unquote.

We respectfully urge that this policy be translated into affirmative action and accomplishment by federal cooperation with the request of Mayor Wagner for modification to plans and the slight resisting of the Federal Office Building to bring it into harmony with the City's new redevelopment program.

The New York State Association of Architects
S. Elmer Chambers, President

PRIVATE PRACTICE VS. CIVIL SERVICE

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The possibility of such tricks and tricksters calls for vigilance on the part of the appointing officials, but is not reason to rule out the good ones. One answer is to prequalify firms on the basis of ability, experience and resources. A consultant or architect should be something more than a professional man who has gone into business.

There is a familiar, almost constitutional, three-way separation of powers in big public building—that is, in major, original, nonrecurring projects. The work is shared by the Government which conceives, initiates and controls; the outside consulting engineer or architectural firm, which makes the detailed plans and sees that they are conformed with, and the private contractor, who does the actual construction on the ground. Labor is involved in each of the three; public employees in the first; professional, private, field and office workers in the second; and union labor in the third.

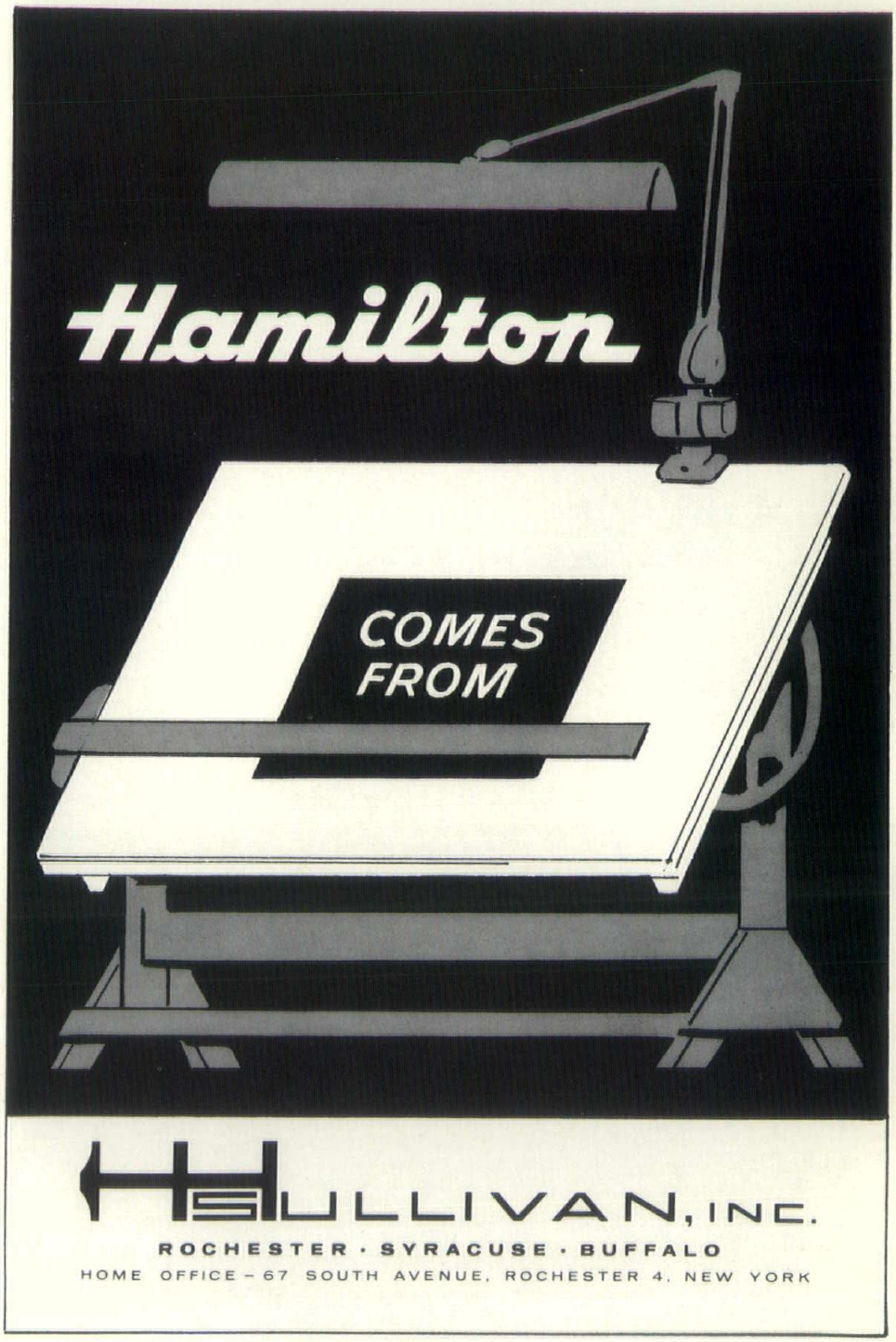
When this balance is disturbed, as it is in many foreign countries, such as in South America, where the outside contractor designs and builds and often initially invents, there is usually trouble and always heavy expense. The checks and balances are missing. Disturb that balance, fuse their powers and you create a private or public monopoly which is no good for Government, the professions, management, labor or the citizenry in general.

The present and prospective total volume of public building is staggering, whether subsidized in one way or another by the Federal Government or designed and built by private enterprise. It runs to billions annually and a drastic departure from the conventional pattern and balance governing professional work may well send us on the long dubious road to socialism.

Therefore, the failure of the engineering, architectural, planning and related professions to defend their independence, their freedom, their claims to respect not to speak of their very livelihood, is almost incomprehensible, unless we reflect on the shell shock of supineness of the traditional sculptor, painter, and artist familiar with history, perspective anatomy and the groundwork of the great arts as he is elbowed out of ornamentation in public building, and indeed, almost forgotten in the triumph of sheer, stark, metallic design and mass effects.

Let us see what the highway officials of the several states will do on the question of making highway plans another Government monopoly. If they do not knock out this grab for power, the road builders will do themselves, their states, the public service, and business generally, a conspicuous disservice.

Michigan National Architect, January, 1963



BULLETIN

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS
JOHN NELSON LINN, EDITOR

Your President, who is the Associate Editor of the Empire State Architect, has been invited to serve as the guest editor for the Convention issue for the 1963 New York Association of Architects Convention.

The Convention issue will feature buildings designed by members of the host chapter.

It is suggested that members of the NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS, who have designed buildings of which they may be proud, submit all details to the Society office as early as possible. Such submissions should include 8 by 10 inch glossy photographs, small scale plans and a written description which should give the name of the owner, the architect and the location of the building.

We anticipate many submissions. Therefore, an impartial jury will be empanelled to select as many of the best of the submissions as can possibly be published in the Convention issue.

We must be sure to make this Convention issue the best ever. Please cooperate by submitting your material as early as possible.

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CHAOS AT THE CORNER

As most citizens are at least dimly aware, the average street corner is one of the messiest places to be found in any city, especially New York. Fire hydrants, traffic lights, street lamps, fire alarm boxes, newsstands, bus stop signs, mailboxes, police call boxes, traffic signs, potted plants and litter baskets —all compete for limited sidewalk space and for the attention of motorists and pedestrians.

The ugliness comes not only from the general clutter, but from the individual appearance of many items, which are designed with little more in mind than lack of maintenance, and convenience for the police, fire and sanitation departments.

As most bus stops are on corners, the Sanitation Department places most of its 11,000 litter baskets there. This makes sense, as littering is extremely high at this location. However, more specialized items such as mail storage boxes, police call boxes, fire alarm boxes, and others not in constant use don't necessarily have to be placed right near a busy corner and could probably serve most situations in the middle of a block.

But the greatest space-eaters are Manhattan's newsstands. They are to some degree a considerable convenience to the pedestrian, yet they crowd many corners, especially where subway entrances have already pre-empted most of the walking space. For example, on the northwest corner of 40th Street and Seventh Avenue only *one* person can pass between the subway entrance, the newsstand and a traffic sign without walking in the gutter! One solution would be to relocate newsstands at the same intersection so as not to interfere with foot traffic. Another: incorporate the newsstands over a new subway entrance.

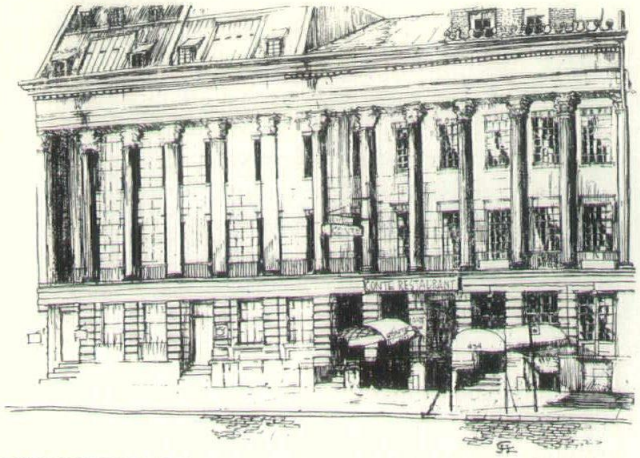
Architects have proposed before the incorporation into a single, well designed unit all the street corner necessities, placed out of the pedestrian traffic pattern. Each component within this "street utility unit" would have distinctive coloring and/or texture to help avoid confusion. The result could be that all components would be more visible and easier to use.

Toward these ends, the Chapter might well propose formation of an impartial advisory group to help the City pass on the desirability of each piece of its street furniture, its location and design in relation to public need and use. Each City department concerned would be represented, as well as architects, city planners, and the designers of the products themselves. At least it would be worth the try.

Charles K. Robinson

OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AIA CITY LANDMARK



NEW YORK LANDMARKS NO. 2 — COLONNADE ROW (1836)

Sketch and text by James L. Cady

Colonnade Row (La Grange Terrace) at 428-34 Lafayette St., was designed by A. J. Davis, architect, and built by Seth Geer for John Jacob Astor. The architect patterned the series of connected residences (originally nine) after Lansdown Crescent in Bath.

The marble for the building (originally the entire facade) was cut by Sing Sing prisoners, an economy measure that triggered a local stone mason's riot. The columns are Corinthian in feeling and a continuous railing ran across the colonnade. The entrance to each private house was through a small fenced garden plot, and the ground floor contained the entrance hall, stairway, kitchen, and pantry; at the rear of the house, separated by a small court, were servant quarters. Doric columns originally framed the entrances, and the tall, double-hung windows on the parlor (2nd) floor were replaced by French doors around 1900 when the fourth-floor studios were added to some of the houses. The five houses on the north extremity were presumably removed around 1900 when a stable-garage was built for Wanamaker's.

Of historical interest is the fact that President Tyler and his bride eloped from one of the houses, and that Messrs Thackeray and Dickens visited others. President Lincoln is said to have been scheduled to make his "Cooper Union" address from the second floor balcony of Colonnade Row. Today's long time residents include Conte's Italian Restaurant and a number of individual tenants who have no intention of moving.

Continued on Page 26

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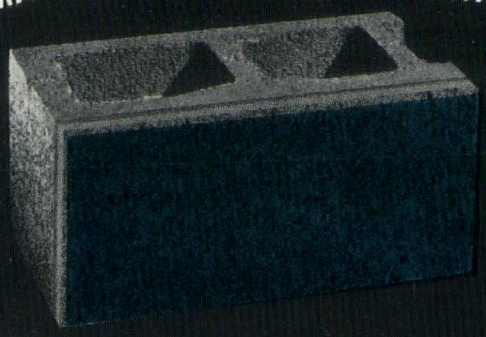

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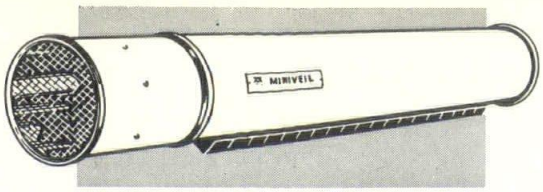

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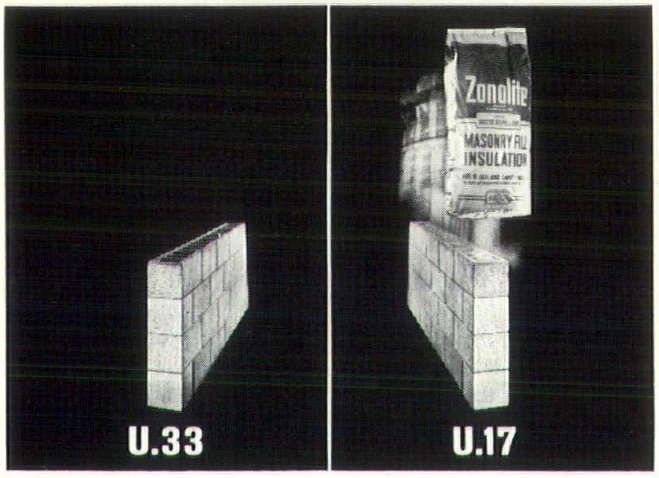

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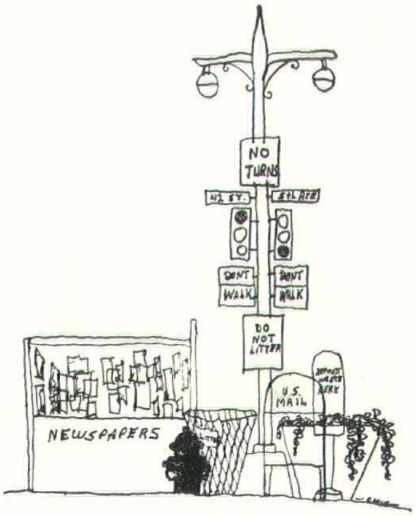
IMPROVING NEW YORK

Recently *Oculus* carried an announcement of the first annual Albert S. Bard Award, established by the City Club of New York. Its purpose is "to encourage and promote excellence in civic architecture . . . ", and entries may be submitted by any architect registered in New York for any project executed in New York City for any agency of the city government.

The program got started last year when a young architect who is a member of the club was appointed chairman of its sub-committee on Planning and Housing. This sub-committee undertook to draw up recommendations towards improving the quality of design of public buildings in New York City. (The significance of this assignment was impressed upon the chairman when his research revealed that favorable critical mention of the City's public architecture ends with New York's City Hall, designed in 1803!)

The sub-committee's report actually contained eight specific recommendations, including, for example, one of perennial interest to architects—increased fees. But the president of the club considered that the most appropriate recommendation was that of establishing an annual award as a means of creating public interest in good civic architecture. Its board of trustees voted approval, and named the program in honor of one of its most distinguished members, Mr. Bard. The young architect who initiated the idea is Leon Brand, and we are pleased to note that he is also a member of the New York Chapter.

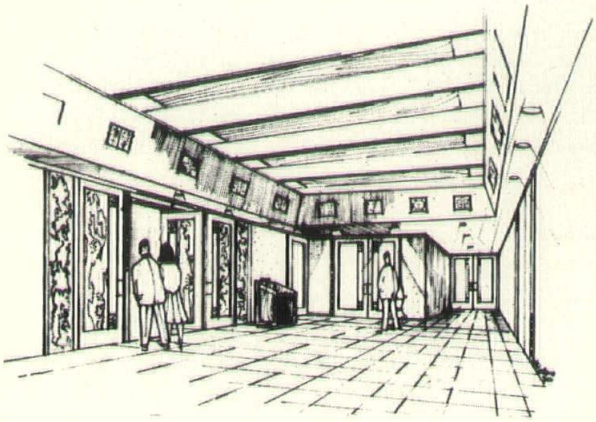
S. Hart Moore



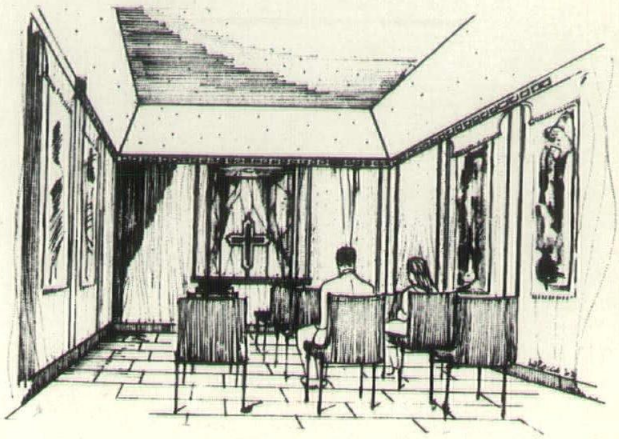
Sketch by P. Geiger

PROTESTANT CHAPEL

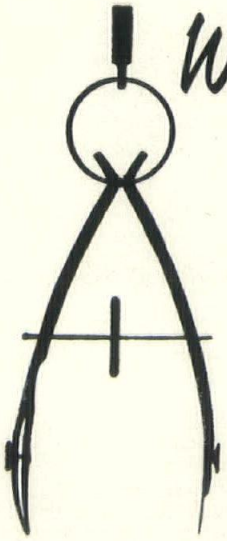
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



HALL OF DENOMINATIONS



MEDITATION CHAPEL



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TESTING AND INTERPRETING TESTS

The American Institute of Architects Committee on Professional Insurance

An architect was engaged to prepare plans and supervise the construction of a school project. Portions of the building were to be constructed of concrete and the specifications set forth the standards which the concrete was required to meet. Transit-mixed concrete was supplied by a subcontractor. A testing laboratory, designated by the architect, was employed by the prime contractor to inspect the concrete. The test reports were submitted to the architect who interpreted them incorrectly and approved the concrete as meeting specifications. Later the concrete was discovered to be defective and some of the work had to be torn out and replaced.

The prime contractor sued the architect to recover for the additional expense and loss of time incurred. He had relied on the architect's interpretation and alleged that the architect was negligent in incorrectly interpreting the test reports and in permitting defective members made from the concrete to be incorporated in the building.

The court upheld the contractor's claim saying that the "position and authority of a supervising architect are such that he ought to labor under a duty to the prime contractor to supervise the project with due care". The court held that since the architect had assumed responsibility for overseeing the testing work and supervising the construction, he had, by authorizing the concrete members to be incorporated in the project, made an implied representation to the prime contractor that he had inspected the members, reviewed the tests and that both the members and the concrete were in conformance with specifications.

MORAL—The contractor and the owner have a right to rely on the architect and if he assumes the responsibility of making and interpreting tests, he may be liable to both. Tests, whenever required, should be conducted and interpreted by properly qualified testing laboratories.

AIA HONORARY MEMBERS

KENNETH JOHN CONANT, educator and archaeologist, has been elected an honorary member of The American Institute of Architects. The honor was voted by the AIA Board of Directors for Dr. Conant's service to the architectural profession through his archaeological investigations, his teaching, his public and professional service, his publications and his counsel to colleagues in the academic world and in practice.

WALTER LITTLEFIELD CREESE, educator, writer, editor and administrator, has been elected an honorary member of The American Institute of Architects. The action was taken by AIA's Board of Directors in recognition of Dr. Creese's contributions to the knowledge of architecture and city planning in this country and abroad.

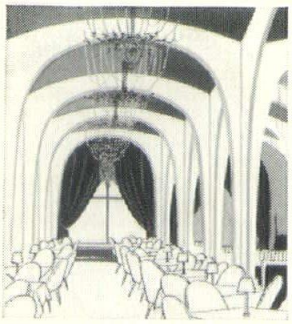
THE REV. EDWARD S. FREY, director of the Commission on Church Architecture, Lutheran Church in America, has been elected an honorary member of The American Institute of Architects. The honor was voted by AIA's Board of Directors in recognition of Dr. Frey's contributions to ecclesiastical architecture through his guidance of Lutheran congregations in their building programs.

CHARLES D. GIBSON, chief of the Bureau of School Planning, California State Department of Education, has been elected an honorary member of The American Institute of Architects. The action was taken by the AIA's Board of Directors in recognition of his contributions to school building design through his effective stand against the use of stock plans and restrictive codes, his encouragement of creativity and freedom in design choice, and his achievements in school lighting.

ERNEST P. MICKEL, Washington editor for publications of the F. W. Dodge Corp., has been elected an honorary member of The American Institute of Architects. The action was taken by the AIA Board of Directors in recognition of Mickel's distinguished reporting of news about and affecting the architectural profession, as well as the entire construction industry.

Architects: Ladd & Kelsey, Pasadena, Calif. Structural Engineer: R. R. Bradshaw, Van Nuys, Calif. General Contractor: Encino Construction Inc., Encino, Calif.

Gull-winged roof of concrete fits a restaurant to its seaside setting



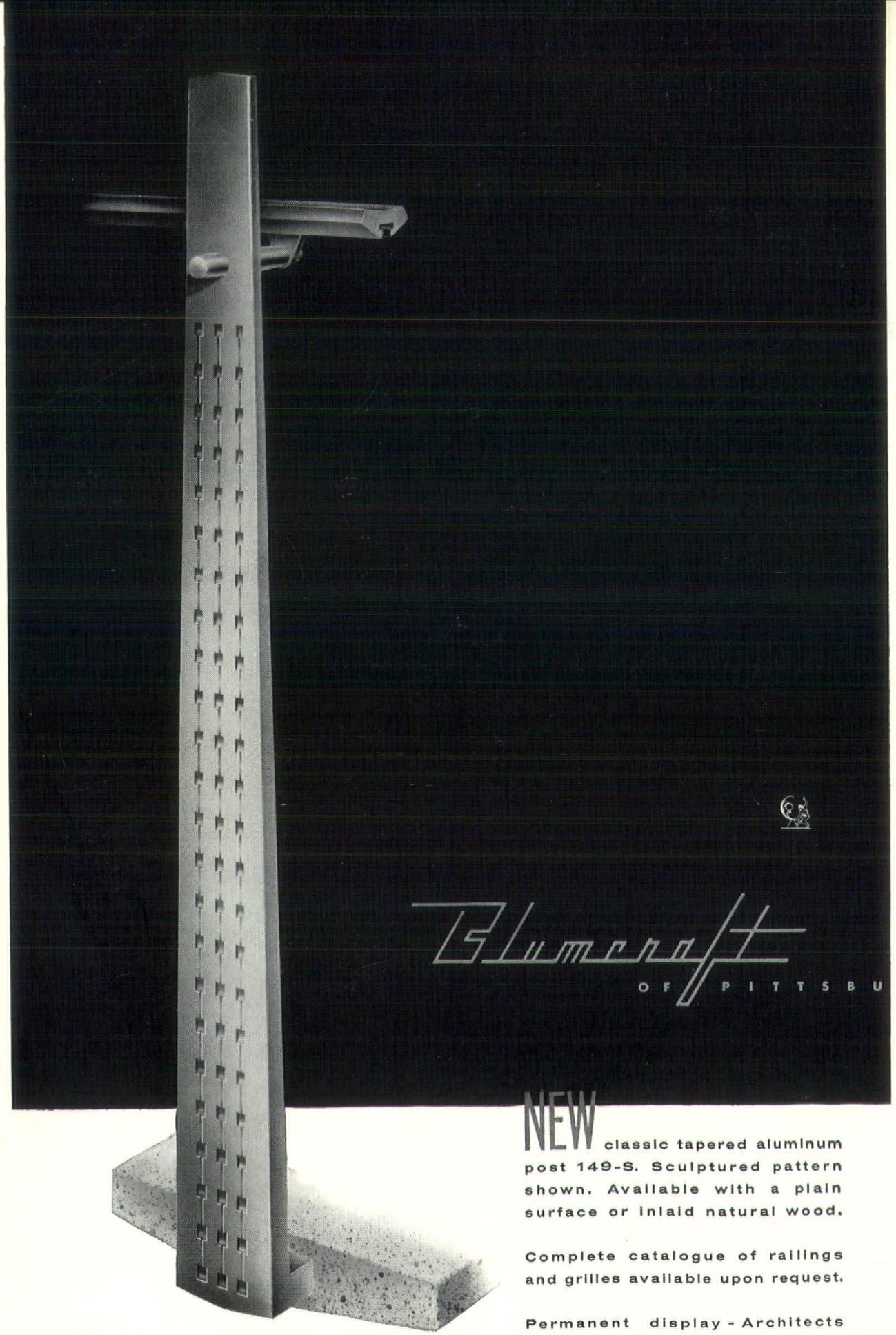
Elegance keynotes the Stuft Shirt's long, vaulted dining room. The 71' x 146' building perches 16' above water. Docking facilities below.

Restless blue water, white sails, sleek hulls! Add to this scene on California's Newport Bay the strikingly designed Stuft Shirt Restaurant. The building is concrete throughout. Thirty-six domes of thin-shell concrete form the roof, with cantilevered half-domes on the perimeter creating the feeling of winged grace. Concrete quatrefoil arches atop the 50 supporting columns rising from the water effect added beauty—inside as well as out.

Today, the versatility of modern concrete is being recognized by more and more architects seeking to broaden their design explorations.

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION 250 Park Avenue, New York 17, New York

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete



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